

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Prepared For Eternity

By Dr. Tom Malone, Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan

(Preached Sunday morning, September 18, 1960, and stenographically recorded.)

"There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king's palaces."—Prov. 30:24-28.

In the book of Proverbs, as marvelous and mysterious as it is, God places his wisdom at man's disposal. Here is a book of great wisdom. It talks about how valuable is heavenly wisdom to earthly man, and in this book you find a

great contrast between two things: DIVINE WISDOM AND SELF-WILL.

Here is a book that can be used in the running of government, and no government leader would ever make a mistake to conduct himself according to the book of Proverbs. Here is a book on how to operate our home. Here is a book upon which our school and all the system of education could be founded.

Here is a book upon which a businessman could successfully operate his business. Here is a book by which every human being can assure himself of heavenly wisdom and of divine success. What a wonderful book it is! All of these institutions which I have mentioned could all be run by the wisdom which is found in the book of Proverbs.

There is one passage in this wonderful book that I have referred to, and I suppose many Christians have referred to many times. I have gone to it, I suppose, scores of times in the twenty-five

(Continued on page 7)



Dr. Tom Malone

The Birth of Christ

By Bishop J. C. Ryle

Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, Died 1900

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.—Luke 2:1-7.

We have, in these verses, the story of a birth—the birth of the incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Every birth of a living child is a marvellous event. It brings into being a soul that will never die. But never since the world began was a birth so marvellous as the birth of Christ. In itself it was a miracle—"God was manifest in the flesh" (I Tim.

3:16). The blessings it brought into the world were unspeakable—it opened to man the door of everlasting life.

Christ Came "In Fullness of Time"

In reading these verses, let us first notice the times when Christ was born. It was in the days when



The Christ of Christmas Is Coming Again

Why, When, Where, and What Will Happen When He Comes

By Evangelist Bill Rice
Contributing Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD

As I dictate this message, I can look from my hotel window upon the busy streets of an American city. Crowds of people throng the sidewalks. Streets and store windows are gaily decorated. Overhead, loudspeakers blare forth music about sleigh rides, reindeer, Santa Claus, and—occasionally—Christ. A sense of excitement fills the very air.

It is Christmastime!

But as the Christmas season rushes upon us, few people seem to give much thought to the Christ of Christmas. To many He is little more than a legend, the central figure in a beautiful old tale. A charming story, to be sure, but one that hardly ranks in importance with Santa Claus.

To others Jesus is simply a babe who was born long ago in Bethlehem as the nativity scenes in our church yards suggest. Vaguely they wonder whatever became of Him, anyway.

How excited this world would be if only people realized that the Christ of Christmas is far more than a character in a fairy tale, a legend, or even a historical event. Actually, the Christ of Christmas is right this minute a living, breathing, real Person. The Christ of Christmas is not only alive this very minute, but—

The Christ of Christmas is coming again!

I. He Is Coming Again

There is more in the Bible about

the second coming of Jesus Christ than any other one subject. There is more about the second coming of Christ than there is about church membership, giving money, being baptized, praying, getting married, loving, forgiving, singing, or preaching. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was announced before He was born and proclaimed after His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

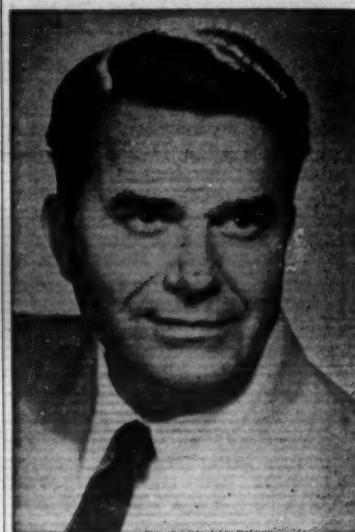
Foretold Before Birth

Notice the beautiful prophecy found in Isaiah 9:6, 7:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

A Son was to be born that in some strange, wonderful, miraculous way was to be both man and God. Isaiah had already told (Isa. 7:14) that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a Son and call His name Immanuel. So this Baby, this Immanuel, would be born of a woman and yet would be God Himself. He would be known as "The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Furthermore, He would reign on David's throne and over David's kingdom, and when He began to



Dr. Bill Rice

reign, He would reign on forever.

This very same prophecy is found again in Luke 1:31 through 33. This time the prophet is not Isaiah but an angel sent from Heaven to tell Mary that she had found favor with God and was to be the mother of the Lord Jesus. The angel told the prophecy in different words, but he foretold the very same thing that Isaiah did. Here is what the angel said:

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

(Continued on page 10)

Christmas All Year!

Send A Spiritual Gift That Will Continue To Bless All Year Long

by Evangelist Walt Handford, Assistant Editor

Perhaps you have had the same experiences that I have had the day after Christmas. Sometimes I have felt that the Christmas gifts I had given the day before had been just right and where really appreciated by those who received them. Then there have been other times when I was not satisfied at all and felt sure those who received my gifts were not especially thrilled about the matter either.

But I believe we have found the answer to that problem and can guarantee that Christmas this year can continue to be a blessing all year long to those to whom you give gifts. A gift subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD will continue to bless fifty-two weeks and will be remembered for the whole coming year as a special love gift from you. Long after other gifts are gone and forgotten this gift will continue to live and be a blessing.

Keep Christ in Christmas

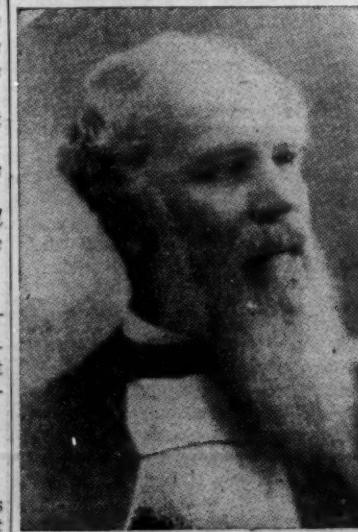
Many people have commercialized Christmas to the point where it is not the blessing it once was. The Lord Jesus Himself, who ought to be the central figure at Christmastime is left out nearly

everywhere. Merchants often leave Christ out of the word "Christmas" and advertise "Xmas gifts." How sad to think that at Christmastime which ought to be a great time of spiritual blessing, Jesus Himself is so sadly neglected.

But what the world does, I feel many of us Christians do also. For many of us the exchange of gifts is not always the spiritual blessing it ought to be.

A subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD as a Christmas gift would truly be making Christmas the spiritual treat that it ought to be. How your friends would thank you for subscribing to THE SWORD OF THE LORD for them. There is always something in every issue for the whole family. There are the Bible Crossword Puzzles enjoyed by so many. Then there is the weekly column for women, *From My Kitchen Window*. The young folks enjoy *Kids' Korner* and the stories which are often in the paper. Then the sermons, the scriptural articles, the answers to Bible questions, all are designed to meet the spiritual needs of the whole family. Preachers especially

(Continued on page 8)



Bishop T. C. Ryle



Hey, preachers! A big box full of sermons are already in hand for the Sword Evangelistic Contest which closes January 1. Some of them are very fine. Preachers, you still have two weeks to get those sermons to us so they will be on hand before Sunday, January 1.

Remember, we are offering some \$1,600 in prizes—from \$300 down to \$100 per sermon for the best ten sermons. This is not a gamble. It is not left to chance. People who win awards in this contest will do it on merit, by their work and study and prayer, and by God's help to make the sermons a genuine blessing. The greatest sermons published in this generation are published in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*! It is worth a lot of study and prayer, holy zeal, hard work, then very careful correcting of every word, to make this sermon a blessing to the thousands who read *THE SWORD*. So get your manuscripts ready and send them in as soon as you can.

Remember, the sermon is to be your own, original, not published heretofore, typewritten, double spaced, on one side of the paper. Do not expect us to correct your mistakes and do your work. The rules of the contest are free for asking. Rush your contest sermons in, *Sword of the Lord*, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Gone For Two Weeks More

It has been a real push this week to get things done. Oh, the editing of sermons, the finishing up of business, the deciding of business matters, and selecting material for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* this week. Of course we attended prayer meeting Wednesday night. And tonight (Friday night) I drive 25 miles to South Chicago to preach with Rev. Charles Hand. Yesterday was Thanksgiving and we had a lovely dinner with turkey. Most of the children and grandchildren were there, and company. I took two and a half hours off for the dinner and company, and worked most of the day. Now I am beginning to see daylight and I hope that tomorrow I can pretty well finish up business for the present. Then I will load up my suitcase, my briefcase, take along *SWORD* copy to work on, letters to answer, the dictating machine, and will be gone again, beginning two weeks of intensive work.

On Sunday, November 27, I will be at Maroa Bible Church, Maroa, Illinois, Sunday afternoon and Sunday night for the annual homecoming. Then on to Chattanooga

for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for the Southern Baptist Fellowship where I will preside, hear some fine preaching by Dr. DeHaan, guest speaker, and by some fine independent fundamental Baptist men. Then four days, December 1 through 4, at Niles, Ohio, with some fundamental churches in a blessed conference. Then to Holmes, New York, for seven days of revival services with Rev. Wayne E. Morrison. Oh, for the breath of Heaven on me as I preach and write and study and pray and win souls these fifteen days ahead!

All Aboard for India in January!

Today I went to my doctor to get a revaccination for smallpox and to take my first typhoid shot in preparation for the trip to India January 2. Before I leave there will be other shots for typhoid and paratyphoid, inoculation against yellow fever and against cholera. Today I went to Chicago and made application for a new passport (my old one secured five years ago has now expired). I receive the passport Tuesday, then I must get a visa from the Indian Consul in Chicago, permitting me to enter India. And brethren in India will buy the round-trip air line ticket for my journey. I will be there for a conference with Christian workers from far and near and for two weeks of intensive revival effort, preaching to sinners.

Readers will remember that our brethren in India have asked me to furnish money for a reprinting of the pamphlet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in three languages current in the parts of India to which I am going. I have authorized them to go ahead and print 150,000 copies of this booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and I am asking friends everywhere to help us pay for these pamphlets which God is using in such a wonderful way to save souls in India and in 28 other languages. Oh, for the breath of Heaven upon us there! I have a half-dozen other urgent invitations in India, to come and speak in various parts on this trip, but I cannot be away that long. I must be back in the States ahead of time for the great Sword Conference on Revival and Soul Winning at Winston-Salem, in the big, new 900-seat brick auditorium of Tabernacle Baptist Church, January 29 to February 5, 1961.

The Holy Spirit began very early speaking to this lad's heart "at sundry times and divers manners." In one of his sermons he says:



And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.—I John 5:11-13.

Even one who has been born to preach, dedicated to God with holy resolves and earnest prayer by spiritual parents, must be converted! John 1:13 reminds us that this new birth, so absolutely necessary for eternal life, is "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John Rice had noble, earnest, spiritual, godly parents, but that did not make him a Christian. His father and mother had given him to God in humble dedication, but neither did that make him a Christian. He, like Nicodemus and every other individual born of the flesh, must also be born of the Spirit if he hoped to see and enter into the kingdom of God. And enter the kingdom he did—at the tender age of nine—another living illustration of the Saviour's sweet invitation, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

The Holy Spirit began very early speaking to this lad's heart "at sundry times and divers manners." In one of his sermons he says:

Though I was saved so young, I remember a long series of incidents through which God spoke to my heart and convicted me of my sins. I remember the Sunday School lesson when we learned about the baby Jesus' being born in a stable because there was no room for Him in the inn. I was not more than four years old at the time, but I kept that little pictured Sunday School card and felt guilty in my heart that human beings like me had no room for Jesus! When I was not more than five I was deeply moved by a song my mother sang, "Turned Away From the Beautiful Gate." I seemed to have known that it was by their own sinful rebellion and rejection of Christ that men miss Heaven. I remember some unrest of soul about it. About the same time my mother, after I had told her a lie, talked to me with tears of how God hated a lie, and what a sin it was. The occasion was burned on my memory, and I know that I felt I deserved the just condemnation of God. Surely that was God speaking to me through His Holy Spirit! When my mother lay on her deathbed she talked so of the Saviour as she had us all promise to meet her in Heaven that I felt myself under the spell of her dying smile and testimony until the time I trusted Christ as my Saviour. After mother's death I remember the tears and the exhortations of my Sunday School teacher. I remember the godly pastor who told the story of the prodigal son, told how he himself had once been a prodigal, how he ran away from home and came to want and trouble and how he was forgiven on his return. How strange, but it seems that God must have been calling from the first day I knew anything about good and bad, from the first time I ever had a sense of moral responsibility to God.

That deepening conviction came to a head one Sunday as the young lad sat in the morning service of the First Baptist Church at Gainesville, Texas, and listened to the faithful pastor, Rev. A. B. Ingram, preach a moving message entitled, "The Prodigal Son." The realization was strong in his heart that he, too, was a prodigal son who had broken the laws of a holy God and had chosen his own way of sin in preference to God's

way of righteousness. At the same time he sensed there would be welcome for him, like the young man of the text, if he would only arise and go to the Father. With holy, determined resolve he slid off his seat and walked down the aisle to take the preacher's hand in an open, public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

Chapter 2

SAVED FOR CERTAIN

A biography of Dr. John R. Rice
By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

good some way or other"; so I got out of bed and prayed again. There on my knees I thought how strange it was that when I realized I was a sinner and that there was nothing I could do to earn salvation and when God had promised so plainly that He would save people and that Jesus had died to pay for our sins—how strange, I thought, that God would not save me! I decided I would leave the matter in the hands of God the best I knew how and go to bed.

I offered myself for membership in the church. I could not feel any great conviction for sin, yet I did not know that I was saved. When, in that little West Texas church, they asked me to stand and give my "experience," give my testimony before being received into the church, I simply said that I had thought about the matter a great deal, that I did not want to be a Methodist, so I decided to be a Baptist! I was a trembling, inexperienced boy, twelve years old. I was frightened at speaking before the people. And they somehow had more confidence in my salvation than my testimony would have warranted, and received me in the church as a candidate for baptism!

When I was baptized I was strangely happy. Yet even then I could give no clear testimony as to when I was saved or how. Oh, I wished that I knew just how and when I was saved and could know for sure that it was settled for good! But when others gave the very date and place when they were saved and told how happy they had been, I could not give any such experience.

Then one glad day I began reading the New Testament and came upon those wonderful promises in the Gospel of John, like clusters of ripe fruit on a beautiful tree!

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"—John 1:12.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life"—John 3:36.

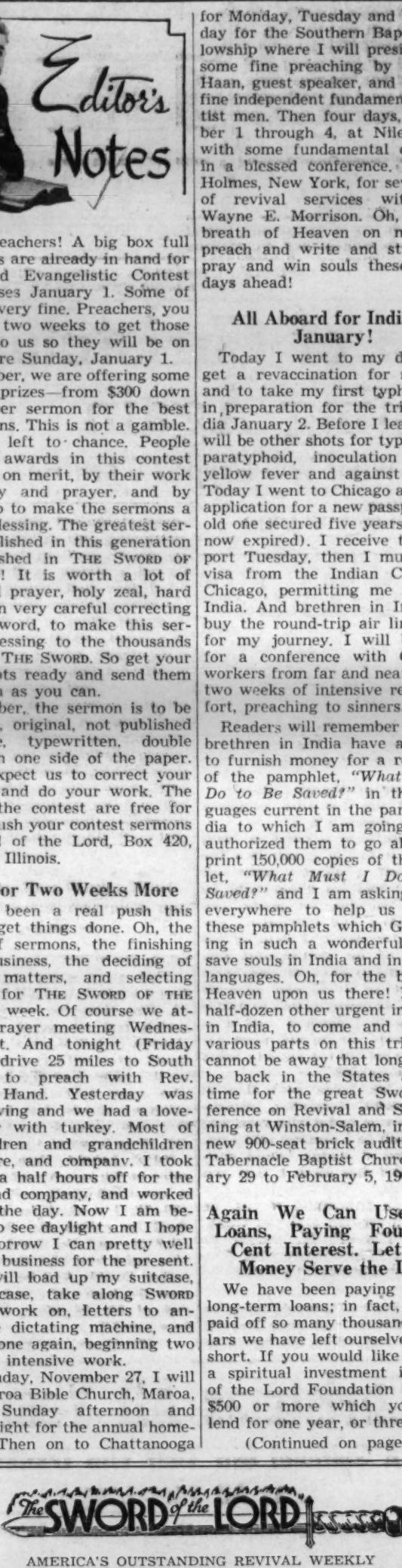
"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"—John 5:24.

Oh, that last wonderful promise! I found that when I heard the Word of God and put my trust in the God who had sent His Son to save me, I then and there received everlasting life. I had often tried to remember that incident or that experience when I was nine years old and came to claim the Saviour publicly. I could not remember how I felt. I wondered if I had been as deeply moved as one must be to be saved. I recalled that a twelve-year-old boy who came the same day had been weeping and I had shed not a tear! Many a time I had thought, "If I were really saved I would not do some of the things I do." But now I saw, praise the Lord, that when I had put my trust in Jesus Christ, then and there I received everlasting life! My doubts and fears were gone; gone, thank God, forever! From that day to this I have never doubted for a moment that I am God's child. I know one thing beyond any doubt: when I trusted Jesus, depended on Him to forgive me, He did! The Word of God says so and that makes it so. On these promises I have hung the eternal welfare of my soul, and how sure, how unchanging is that blessed foundation for my faith!

Dear Reader, do you have that same sweet assurance? God is no (Continued on page 6)

MAN SENT FROM GOD

A biography of Dr. John R. Rice
By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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By Aunt Mary

When I think of Christmas, I think of Jesus as a baby, the manger, angels, gifts and special Christmas foods.

Every year at our house we like to have a Christmas cooky-making session. We make cookies shaped like Christmas trees, stars, camels and other animals, sprinkle them with colored sugars and little candy balls, and bake them, trying not to peek so often they don't get to brown.

While the cookies are in the oven is a really good time to work in memorizing the Christmas story or review it, from Luke, chapter 2.

We start, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed . . ." and learn through the nineteenth verse.

Did you know that Christmas cookies can be used for Jesus? Let me tell you what I plan to do with mine. Not long ago when I was shopping I met an old friend with her two children. (We had been friends in high school.) As I now remember I had never talked to her much about the Lord Jesus, didn't really try to get her to accept Him as Saviour. Of course when we met in the grocery store she hadn't time to talk much, but I said, "I want to see you soon!" I got her married name and found out where she lives. Now I want to invite her and the children over for Christmas Tea (with cocoa for the children), and serve our fancy cookies. What better time to talk about Jesus to our unsaved friends than at Christmas time? I hope the Lord will let me win my old school pal to the Lord Jesus.

Will you try, too, to win a friend for Jesus this Christmas time?

We love to be hospitable during the holiday season! With the special foods, decorations and lovely music, friendly gestures are easier. When you have already let someone know how much you love them, perhaps by a love-gift at Christmas, then it is much easier to persuade them that you are really interested in whether they go to Heaven or Hell!

So much wonderful mail has come in the last two weeks that I wish I could share all of it with you. A good many grown-ups have joined with us to read the Bible every day and pray, but there

have been many more boys and girls, and teen-agers, too. I feel wondrously happy, really gay when I think of so many of you all over the country trying to be good soldiers of Jesus.

Welcome to Thomas and James Krusz of Freeport, New York; Sandra Lee Holck of Grand Rapids, cousin of the Corcoran boys in Phoenix; Juanita Allan in Cullman, Alabama; and, Nancy Lee in Elizabethhton, Tennessee.

(No, Nancy, fourteen is not a bit too old for the SWORD-Bearer's Club. You are old enough to especially need to read the Bible every day. It really has the answers for a young teen-ager's problems.)

Welcome, too, to Elizabeth Lyons of Renton, Washington, and Fred Hammes, a university student from South Carolina.

I really appreciated the letter and membership application from Sandra Owens who lives in Lebanon, Virginia. She is praying that her little twin brother may soon trust Jesus and be saved. Perhaps the Lord will help her to tell him how and lead him to the Lord.

Somehow I missed out before in welcoming Christine Ellis of Des Moines, Iowa. Forgive me, Christine. We do want you!

And two different groups sent their applications together. From Miss Mary Craven in Trenton, New Jersey, were applications for Jean Rae Hawk, Brian Den Bleyker, James Lloyd and Doris Davis. This Junior Department Sunday School Superintendent makes a public presentation of pins and cards, and impressive reminder of the responsibilities that belong to SWORD Bearer's Club members.

And Mrs. Lula Sexton sent applications for her twin grandchildren Marlene and Michael Jesse, and neighbor girls Karen Popp and Deborah Allen all from Castlewood, Virginia. Welcome to you all!

May each one of you have a wonderful Christmas remembering the Lord Jesus whose birthday the day is. Doubtless many will be sending gifts to the Lord Jesus for some of the soul-winning work of the Sword of the Lord Foundation. I am sure that pleases the Lord Jesus. Thank you for every gift, large or small. For gifts of \$1.00 or more we send a receipt.

"Assante wose muno muno—Thank you everyone very much," I smiled.

The girls smiled their thanks and stood watching as Perisi weighed infant after infant, working quickly with her red or blue pencil. Simba, who was up for the first time, had come round to watch his wife at work, and was sitting on the veranda in the shade. Once again the junior nurses were repairing surgical gloves from the theatre. I came along to do my afternoon visitation of the mothers and babies, but Simba said:

"Bwana, sit down here for a moment, I have something to show you." He produced from an envelope Yohanna's baby weight-card. "Bwana, look, see down here, right down on the corner is his weight when he was born, see, it's gone up and up and up."

"What happened here?" I asked, pointing to a blue downward mark.

"Yoh, Bwana, that was the day when he had malaria, but Perisi gave him quinine in the way that you taught her, and behold, his disease disappeared very quickly, see, it goes up."

"What happened here?" I asked again pointing to another blue downward mark.

"Hongo," said Simba, "we never really found out what happened there, but babies do this sort of thing, you know, Bwana."

His son and heir was crawling on the veranda behind him. Suddenly he picked up a glove, which was well on its way to his mouth. Simba said: "Yoh, you must not do that."

"Hongo," I said loudly, "babies do that sort of thing, you know, Simba."

He laughed, but the laugh stopped short as suddenly he said, almost in a whisper: "Bwana, look who's coming."

A young woman with a black cloth over her head had come up, and she apparently was a new case, for she was asking for a baby weight-card. I heard Perisi's voice:

"What is your name?" The girl threw back the black cloth, and there was a gasp right round the courtyard.

"Nphoto!" She drew herself up and put her baby into Perisi's arms: "Give him the medicines of the hospital, give him the health oil, give him the medicine that brings strength."

I moved forward quietly and looked at the baby that we had once called *nhembo*—the elephant, now six months later a very average-looking child, with an obvious enlarged spleen from malaria and a deal of skin disease. His eyes were infected, there were sores round his mouth and around his ankles.

Nphoto turned to me almost defiantly and said: "Bwana, I have come. Behold, was it not yesterday at sunset that Dawa, the witch-doctor, went to be with his ancestors? Did he not take his own medicine, the medicine of the tribe? But he was overcome by the stabbing disease." She shrugged her shoulders. "Behold, he has gone to be with his ancestors." She looked across at Simba, who had risen to his feet, and was holding his son in his arms. She said, as she pointed towards them:

"Behold, have I not seen the way that medicines work with the child, have I not heard how the medicines worked with Simba?" And then very softly, so that only Perisi and I heard: "Shall the ways of the old women rob me of my son?"

Perisi made a mark on the baby weight-card and said: "Never fear, you and I will work together for this child. Your son and mine shall grow together. We will watch the red mark move upward on our cards; we will follow the ways of health, the ways of life."

The baby-scales and cards had been put away, the mothers with their medicines had gone home. Perisi was making some special gruel for her small son, as I came into the ward.

"Perisi how much did the child of Nphoto weigh?"

She smiled— "Bwana, the weights of the children, hers and mine, were *sawa sawa*—exactly equal."

We went down the ward and stopped at the bed near the door, the bed where a few short months before Perisi had (to use her own

(Continued on page 6)



A Column for Wives and Mothers

By Jessie Rice Sandberg

A Family Christmas

I'll tell you very frankly, I am almost childish about Christmas. Every year I can hardly wait to see the tarnished old decorations being hung from the lightposts in our little suburban town and to listen for the lovely carols which pour out of the loudspeaker right in the middle of Main Street. I still get goosebumps when we read Luke's account of the nativity and misty-eyed when I hear little children sing, "Away in a Manger" at the church Christmas program.

I love the laughter that rings through the house while we plan our Christmas surprises and wrap our gifts and the squeals of delight when each surprise is discovered and each gift is opened. I love the way everybody acts at Christmastime—store clerks seem more pleasant, neighbors more sociable, children more courteous and the world just a little less skeptical and disillusioned. I love the fellowship and the feasting—the smell of the rich brown turkey in the oven, the pumpkin pie and the cornbread; the special joy of being together with those I love best.

Our family Christmas traditions follow pretty much the same pattern year after year but it still all seems exciting and wonderful to me. Christmas Eve we spend with the Sandbergs in Moline and then early Christmas morning we drive back to Wheaton to spend that day with my side of the family. In Moline we will have a Smorgasboard with many of the traditional Swedish dishes and lots of good midwestern American food as well. After that there will be Christmas carols and the reading of the biblical Christmas story and then the opening of all the dozens of gifts. Afterwards there will be coffee and cookies before we all go to the 11:00 p.m. service at the church.

On Christmas day our celebration with the Rices will be just about the same as it is every year except that there will be a few more babies (three new ones this year!), a little more noise, a little more food, and the old homestead will seem just a little bit smaller than last year. We will have our annual family "program" in which everyone has to take part—a song perhaps, or poem or Christmas reading, and we will probably all recite Luke's Christmas story together. Then we will each take turns telling what we are most thankful for this year. Afterwards there will be gifts and laughter, a thankful kiss here as each pack-

age is unwrapped. Someone will probably run upstairs to try on a new dress and no doubt we will all have to stop occasionally to look for a doll shoe or toy car which has gotten lost in the mountains of Christmas wrappings. After all the mess is cleared away and the new treasures packed away in the cars, we will all play games and talk and eat some more!

Of course, with such a large family there is always someone with some special burden or need, and occasionally a family Christmas has been shadowed by some particular sorrow or grief. Sometimes a few of the loved ones are far away or someone is ill. Still, the blessed part of the whole celebration is that no matter where we are or whatever the burdens, the precious Lord Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate, is ALWAYS with us and so we can say, and really mean, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

Sandy and the three little ones all join me in wishing you a blessed Christmas, and may you find your deepest hearts desires fulfilled this holiday season!

The Children's King James' Bible

[The New Testament]

A careful translation of the New Testament for children, using simple language. Is called "King James" Bible, "to identify it as the same type of translation that the beloved King James Version is. It is literal, it is honest . . ." It uses the same Greek text the King James Version uses, and hundreds of verses usually used for memory work are in the same language of the King James Version, not changed. Interspersed along throughout the Bible are more than a hundred double-page spreads including colored pictures and Bible stories. This is besides the New Testament text itself. We believe that it is easily read, is a true and honest translation, that it is simple enough for children. It is self-pronouncing, has two maps, glossary of terms, nearly 700 large pages in hard binding, imitation leather, approximately 6 x 9 inches, 2 inches thick. We recommend it. Published by Modern Bible Translations, Inc., 1124 S. E. First Street, Evansville 13, Ind.



We tell our students that fundamentally we are all alike but that God has given each one of us a personality and an individuality that is a little different from what He ever gave anybody else. We also tell them that no one Christian can do the work of another Christian for every Christian's work is his dead-level best.

You Bible-believing, orthodox Christians can co-operate with Bob Jones University in the work which, under God, it is doing in training young people to go to the ends of the earth in various walks

of life as consecrated, Christian leaders. You can pray for the school. You can help us line up the right kind of young people who can be trained for Christian leadership, and you can invest some money in the work of this school that is being blessed of God in such a remarkable way. Won't you let us hear from you? Please do! Thank you, and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, S. C.
(Advertisement)



Needles and Pins

Simba, the lion hunter, lay in bed, his breath coming fast and with each respiration he gave a peculiar grunt that was very characteristic of pleurisy:

I had given an injection and was swabbing his arm with a little bit of cotton-wool when suddenly his eyes opened and his teeth unclenched—"Go on, Bwana, do it. Have I not been waiting? You know I have no joy in injections, get it over!"

"Heh," I said, "it is done, the medicine is already there."

"Yoh," he said, "I felt nothing."

"Kumbe, I must be careful next time to get one of the blunt needles—one of those with a point like a fish hook. You'll feel that all right."

There was a smile round his lips, a smile that grew as the days went by. Four days later his temperature was normal, his pain gone, and he was demanding more and more to eat. A sure sign, as I told Perisi, of improvement in the physical condition of the male.

It was a week after we had brought Perisi and Simba to the hospital. There was a long queue

of mothers standing with their babies on their backs or in their arms, their baby weight-cards ready for marking.

As a little something out of the ordinary some twenty of the girls from the C. M. S. Boarding School had come to the Clinic. Perisi smiled towards them.

"Bwana, they have strong desire to sing lullabies, those of the people of our country."

I turned to the women. "Have you any desire to hear the songs of the children?"

There was a nodding of heads and a number of "Hee heehs" in agreement.

At a signal from Perisi they sang a lullaby. Very soon the whole group of mothers were swaying in rhythm, and the babies peering over their shoulders were highly appreciative.

"Come," I called, "another one."

"Ewana," said Perisi, "this one they call 'Merabi.' This is the one I sing to Yohanna at the hour of sunsetting."

The girls waited for Perisi's nod, and then they sang again.

These Christmas Needs Wait on You

THESE CHRISTMAS NEEDS WAIT ON YOU

- Free Literature That Actually Wins Souls Around the World Must Have Your Support**
- Books Greatly Used of God, "The Ruin of a Christian," "What It Costs to Be a Good Christian," "Watching Jesus Die," and Others Must Be Reprinted. A Year's Supply Requires About \$12,000**
- Letters Every Day From Missionaries, From National Pastors Who Read English in India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Elsewhere, Plead for Us to Continue THE SWORD OF THE LORD Through Our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund**
- The Radio Broadcast Carries the Gospel Out to Millions Each Sunday on Radio Stations Covering Chicago, Detroit, New York City, Denver, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Many Smaller Cities. America Needs Old-Fashioned, Warmhearted, Plain, Sharp, Spirit-Filled, Bible Preaching But God's People Must Provide This Missionary Help**

By the Editor

Yesterday I went by the mail-reading table and Miss Rose Court-right, opening the mail, marking the letters, recording the gifts, etc., called my attention to some lovely gifts from far and near. God is laying it on the hearts of good Christians to help in this actual missionary, soul-winning work of Sword of the Lord Foundation.

We rejoice that there is an organization of fundamental Christian people from far and near, an Overseas Literature Crusade on the mission fields. But by God's loving mercy and help and the co-operation of missionaries, we are doing the same work, reaching millions on the mission field with the Gospel and having, I believe, more people saved than all these other Christian people united, with a program and paid workers, are having. I am glad that there are foreign mission societies. God bless them! They co-operate wonderfully with the Sword of the Lord in the main in getting out the Gospel. And the co-operation of good, soul-winning missionaries, on some twenty mission fields around the world, have helped to put our soul-winning literature in twenty-nine languages, and have resulted in tens of thousands of professions of faith.

By arming these missionaries and native workers with enough of this gospel literature, we can win souls at the least possible expense and do the most fruitful mission work in the world, as we have been doing for years. We do not minimize the other good soul-winning mission works. However, we believe that Sword of the Lord Foundation, with its emphasis on evangelism everywhere, its fidelity to the Word, its co-operation with good missionaries from many boards on the foreign field, actually gets more souls saved for the money spent than almost any other missionary enterprises in the world.

We are glad for other good radio programs in America. But there still are not enough Gospel preachers

ers with the power of God, plainly standing up for Christ and the Bible and condemning sin. We are glad for all the other good Christian magazines in America. However, we believe that not any twenty of them have as many reports of people saved as come regularly to the Sword of the Lord, through our soul-winning sermons in THE SWORD and through our other gospel literature.

All we are saying here is that this mission enterprise deserves the support of God's people. Money invested for Jesus Christ in Sword of the Lord Foundation will have more impact for Christ, will result in more revivals, in more souls saved, we believe, than money invested nearly anywhere else in the world.

I personally think so much of the results that God gives us that I am putting all the money I can into this work myself. I take no salary, of course, from Sword of the Lord Foundation, but I rejoice in having a part in it.

Some twenty thousand preachers read THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and are stirred to revival, find illustrations, Bible teaching, outlines, inspiration, and courage through this Christian magazine.

These Are Immediate Needs

The Christmas offering to the Lord Jesus through Sword of the Lord Foundation will meet some serious, immediate needs.

There is a need for thousands of dollars for free literature. Much of this literature has already been provided by Sword of the Lord Foundation and must be paid for. There is pending a plea for \$1,200 for a large printing of "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in Korea. I have promised 150,000 at least of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in reprints in three languages in India. Other demands are coming daily. All of them, I think, are very important. We are careful, thrifty, and we are com-

elled to turn down many, many calls, and try to provide for only the most immediate and serious needs.

Then we must reprint some good-selling books which have now been exhausted. These include *The Ruin of a Christian*, one of the most popular and useful of my books, and the clothbound edition of *What It Costs to Be a Good Christian*, and *Watching Jesus Die*, the ten sermons on the crucifixion. These books still sell well. But the money that has come in we have used to pay off notes, and now we need to reprint these. It is not economical to print less than a year's supply at once, but we cannot ask the printers and bookbinders to wait a year for pay. So we ask that friends help us now to get these books in print. We need \$12,000 for this printing. If they are kept off the market, and not provided for publication, I think that will be a tragedy for thousands who might use them.

Our friends will remember that in 1959 we sold over \$42,000 worth of my books to individual customers by mail, and this year it will run more than \$50,000. The books are life-changing and God has blessed them. We dare not let them go out of print.

Then we need money for our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. We need money to pay for the radio broadcast, blessing so many. So I have most earnestly prayed for a certain amount in this Christmas offering.

The Lord has wonderfully helped me so that I could give the amount I felt I ought to give, and I have already done it. Now I am saving up to see how much more I can give in the Christmas offering. I ask those who have the same burden for the same work, as unselfishly as I have, to try to match me in sacrificial giving for the glory of Christ in this Christmas offering.

Address, Sword of the Lord, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

*

ville, South Carolina, held a revival August 28 through September 4 in the Wesley Memorial Evangelical Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. There were thirteen saved, twenty-six rededications and four family altars established.

*

EVANGELIST FRANK DUNCAN, P.O. Box 127, Grover, North Carolina, held a revival November 8 through 13 at the Osceola Baptist Church near Reidsville, North Carolina. The pastor reports that there were souls saved and many rededications but does not give the exact number.

*

EVANGELIST CARLYLE SCOTT, 713 Whitlock Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana, reports several recent meetings. In an eight-day meeting with Immanuel Baptist Church in Marion, Indiana, September 11 through 18, there were six professions of faith and fifteen or twenty rededications. September 28 through October 9 Brother Scott was in the First Regular Baptist Church, Knoxville, Iowa, where he saw six souls saved. October 16 through 30 held a revival at the Bible Baptist Church at North Manchester,

*

EVANGELIST BOB STOCKTON, P.O. Box 44, Franklin, Indiana, held a revival October 1 through 5 at the First Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Franklin, Indiana, developing visitation evangelism.

Somebody Made It!

A great masterpiece of literature, which shows in a most fascinating way how many things a man can contrive and put together and how many useful articles he can manufacture, even though he had never been trained to do it, is Defoe's tale of the shipwrecked Crusoe. He made his house, his clothes; he grew and prepared his own grain for food, and slew his own meat. He arrived at length at a state of affluence and luxury which every real boy has envied, and all that wealth was the work of one poor, untrained, shipwrecked man. But Robinson Crusoe created nothing. Without the raw material he would have died.

Christian doctrine tells a man that with all his intelligence and cunning he could not have made the earth on which he lives—not to speak of creating himself. That there is an almighty though invisible God who has made him and his world is a truth that at once commends itself to the conscience of man. There is that spirit in man, however much he may play with ideas, which says, the moment his principle is presented to him, "That doctrine is true, that fact is as it ought to be, as it must be. It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Ps. 100:3). —C. A. Macartney

16 through 23 at the National Baptist Church of Taylor, Michigan. There were seven saved and ten rededications. Also five family altars were established and four set out to tithe for the first time. Rev. W. M. Young recommends Brother Stockton as a dedicated evangelist.

*

EVANGELIST ARNOLD O. WILLIS, 405 Linden Circle, Huntington 5, West Virginia, writes to report several meetings held recently. In the First Baptist Church of Dunbar, Pennsylvania, there were five first time decisions and a good revival among Christians. Then at the Bookwalter Evangelical United Brethren Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, there were twenty-three first time decisions for Christ and twelve rededications. Then at the meeting held recently in the Evangelical United Brethren Church in East Connellsburg, Pennsylvania, there were fourteen first time decisions. In this meeting, in one family the grandmother, mother and two daughters were all saved. November 7 through 20 in a union meeting between the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Salem United Brethren Churches near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, there was a good revival and twenty-five conversions.

*

EVANGELIST BUD SPRIGGS, held an eight-day revival recently in the Van Born Baptist Church of Dearborn, Michigan. Rev. Troy B. Hull, pastor, reports eight conversions and ten rededications. Many rebellious Christians were broken and a deep work done among God's people. In a previous eight-day revival there were sixteen saved and 12 rededications.

*

EVANGELIST LEWIS BUTTON, 309 Hazel Avenue, Salisbury, Maryland, held a ten-day meeting with the Missionary Baptist Church of Clyde, Ohio, November 4 through 13. Rev. W. M. Kirby, pastor, reports eight professions of faith, and twenty people who promised to tithe and twelve other decisions to start family altars.

*

EVANGELIST BOB STOCKTON of P.O. Box 44, Franklin, Indiana, has spent some months working with Dr. James Lee and the First Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Franklin, Indiana, developing visitation evangelism. Now he is ready to go into the field with one-week visitation evangelism program. He hopes to spend about three days in teaching and inspiring the people about visitation and preaching in the evening, and then three days in practical demonstration and supervision enlisting and helping the people to set up a visitation program actually winning souls from house to house. God is blessing. We think some pastors will like to have Brother Stockton to teach their people personal soul winning and visitation from house to house and winning souls himself.

Judas

By Dr. Bob Jones
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.

What a picture of human depravity—Judas Iscariot—who betrayed the Son of Man with a kiss! There is not much said in the Bible about Judas. It is not *how much* is said about a man that reveals his character. It is *what* is said about a man, or what the man says, that reveals his character.

"What will you give me?" That is what Judas asked the chief priests when he went to see them to sell the Son of God. These words reveal the heart of Judas Iscariot. They are not many words, but no more wicked words were ever uttered. It does not take many poems to prove a man is a poet. One great poem is sufficient. It does not take many oaths to show a man's heart is black. One foul oath is sufficient to prove the man's heart is wicked and depraved.

Judas Iscariot who had been a trusted member of the firm, the one who handled the money—and no doubt had stolen many times some of the money that belonged to all of them—is now selling the Son of God to His enemies. What a tragedy of horrors! Judas had been with Jesus for three years. He had seen Him perform miracles. He had heard Him speak as never man spake. He witnessed what the others witnessed, yet he sold the Lord for thirty pieces of silver! Judas thought he wanted the money until he got it. The thirty pieces of silver mocked his agony, and he threw it down at the feet of the priests and went out and hung himself. After Judas Iscariot sold the Son of God, he knew he was not fit to live.

There are modernistic preachers and modernistic educators who have sold Jesus Christ to His enemies as truly as Judas ever sold Him, and they have not been decent enough to hang themselves. Some of these preachers continue to stand in pulpits that are supposed to be Christian, and some of these educators are still teaching in colleges and universities that were built with Christian money.

Evangelist Wanted Honduras Revival

Missionary Earl K. Howell, Apartment 10, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, Central America, working under Baptist Mid-Missions, writes that there is need for an evangelist to hold a revival campaign on Utila Island where the people speak English. He says there is a blessed opportunity and a great hunger for the Gospel. The evangelist would have to pay or have his church or friends pay his plane fare which will be less than \$200 from Miami.

An interested evangelist or pastor-evangelist may write Missionary Howell. The evangelist campaign should be held some time from March to August to assure good weather.

THE LORD IS WORKING In the HOLY LAND



Rev. Leon Rosenberg, Founder and General Director, with two of our orphans

Our obligations to needy children increase. Conditions there are the Lord's challenge for your cooperation, prayers and help.

"WHO WILL BE THE LORD'S HELPING HANDS?"
HEADQUARTERS:

The American European Bethel Mission, Inc.
252 N. Dillon St., Dept. SL, Los Angeles 26, California

God's People Feast At Winston-Salem

From half U.S.A., preachers, Christian workers, earnest Christians come for spiritual revival, come to learn soul winning, come to participate in actual demonstration of house-to-house visitation. They come to be filled with the Spirit, to learn Bible methods in building a great church, in holding revivals, how to build a great soul-winning Sunday School and through that the church. They come to be transported by heavenly music, to go back with lives transformed as have thousands of others.

The SWORD CONFERENCE ON REVIVAL and SOUL WINNING

Faith Baptist Tabernacle, Waughton Road, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, January 29 — February 5, 1961

We believe we have the strongest program we can assemble. We expect attendance from all over eastern United States. For eight days, Sunday to Sunday, Christians will see souls saved, will face their faults and failures, will learn the methods being used by the best soul winners. Pastors who have been used of God to build great soul-winning churches, with thousands of converts, will show how it was done.

Hear These Anointed Men!

REV. JACK HYLES, pastor First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana.

God used him to grow Miller Road Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, from 40 members to some 4,000 members in 8 years. Now at the formal downtown First Baptist Church, Hammond, Indiana, in his first year he baptized 556 converts. We believe he is one of the three men most used in building great soul-winning churches in America, and that he is the most thrilling speaker and most successful personal soul winner of the three. His preaching in the power of God is cyclonic, undescribable. He will give a two-hour demonstration of how to visit a strange home, how to start the conversation, what Scriptures to use, methods of bringing a decision. Then he will supervise two full afternoons with many teams winning souls from house-to-house. His preaching, his teaching, his example, will help transform your life.

DR. TOM MALONE, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan, a church of over 2,200 members.

Dr. Malone is one of the great preachers of America, is the President of the Midwestern Baptist Schools (theological seminary, Christian high school and grade school). He is a Spirit-filled man of God, a great Bible preacher, a fervent, proven soul winner. His rich Bible preaching and teaching, his fervent spirit and friendly warmth will charm and bless God's people greatly.

DR. BOB JONES, JR., president Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina.

His school has turned out more evangelists, more soul winners in the last thirty years than any other school in the world, we believe. This cultured Shakespearean scholar, this gifted administrator and author, is also a fervent evangelist. We are glad he can be with us to speak twice.

DR. JOHN R. RICE, editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Evangelist in city-wide campaigns, Chicago, Buffalo, Cleveland, Miami, Seattle, etc.

Author of books and pamphlets circulated in more than 20 million copies in 29 languages, fervent Bible teacher, will bring messages on soul winning, the power of the Holy Spirit, effective prayer; director of the conference.

REV. BILL HARVEY, song leader and soloist for the conference from First Southern Baptist Church, Yuma, Arizona. A grand opera voice, Spirit-filled freedom. Many new songs, music "out of this world." Rice duets.

Billy Carl-Joanna duets: Mr. and Mrs. Billy Carl Rice, frequently heard on the nation-wide Voice of Revival broadcast, will also help in the music, along with Bill Harvey. Billy Carl is a good song leader, has a beautiful tenor voice. And Joanna is one of the editor's daughters, long heard in important Sword conferences, an accomplished pianist. More solos, duets, more new songs and choruses and wonderful spiritual singing!

Free Beds, Lunches for Preachers Who Write

Pastors and churches in Winston-Salem are offering out-of-town preachers beds free if they write ahead of time to Rev. Paul Raker, P. O. Box 422, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Say when you will arrive, when you will leave, who else is in the party. The Faith Baptist Tabernacle and other churches will provide lunches for preachers Monday through Friday with sweet fellowship, discussions, questions and answers, sweet singing.

Make Plans Now to Attend

Churches, plan to send your pastor. A week at this great Sword Conference would well be one of the most profitable weeks he ever spent. It would tremendously influence his preaching, stir him to personal soul winning, give him a fresh grasp of Bible truth, give him friendly fellowship with hundreds of other devoted Christians from several states.

Ministerial students, you might well plan to take a week out of college or seminary to specialize on soul winning and to get new help and inspiration about prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit in revival. Cost will be very moderate.

Christians, make this a time of spiritual mid-winter vacation. Winston-Salem is a lovely city. There are fine accommodations, hotels, motels, and good eating places.

Preachers, remember to write Rev. Paul Raker, P. O. Box 422, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, if you want a free bed provided. And save the dates January 29—February 5, 1961.

Here Is the Daily Program

Sword Conference Winston-Salem, North Carolina, January 29—February 5, 1961

Hour	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30 A.M. to 10:30	Sunday School	John R. Rice	Tom Malone	Bob Jones, Jr.	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice		
			15 Minute Intermission					
10:45 A.M. to 12	John R. Rice	Tom Malone	John R. Rice	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice	Jack Hyles		John R. Rice
			Noon Recess					
2:00 P.M. to 3:00				Jack Hyles in 2-hour lesson on soul winning	Supervised visitation and soul winning led by Jack Hyles			
3:00 P.M. to 4:00	John R. Rice						John R. Rice	
6:45 P.M. to 7:45		John R. Rice	Tom Malone	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice	Jack Hyles		
			15 Minute Intermission					
8:00 P.M.	John R. Rice	Tom Malone	Bob Jones, Jr.	John R. Rice	Jack Hyles	John R. Rice	John R. Rice	John R. Rice



Rev. Jack Hyles



Dr. Tom Malone



Dr. Bob Jones, Jr.



Dr. John R. Rice



Rev. Bill Harvey

INCIDENTS and Illustrations

By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner,
Contributing Editor

CHRISTMAS: Really "Big" Business!

The Chicago Printed String Company tells us that Americans will spend a total of \$7,350,000,000 this Christmas, with each family appropriating approximately \$147 as their share of that fantastic figure. And *Consumer Packaging Magazine* adds the information that "Mr. Average American" (how that fellow gets around!) will receive 7 presents—more than on any other occasion in his lifetime except at his marriage (when he receives 25 gifts)! All together, 1,500,000,000 presents will be exchanged in the next few days. Christmas gift wrappings alone will cost the average family \$3.17 each.

(In case you are interested in further figures, the Average American Family spends \$356 per year for 58 gifts suiting various occasions. His average Christmas gift costs \$4.90 while his average non-Christmas gift runs \$7.48. Weddings seem to merit a \$17 gift and even reminders (anniversaries) set the average gift purchaser back \$13. The American gift dollar is divided as follows: Christmas, 41c; Birthdays, 19c; Weddings, 7c; Mother's Day, 6c; Anniversaries, 5c; Father's Day, 5c; Baby Gifts, 4c; Showers, 3c; Easter, 2c; Valentine's Day, 1c; and all others, 7c.)

As usual, the cries of the baby Christ Child are being drowned out by the tinkling cash-register-sleigh-bells of Rudolph and Santa's other reindeer. Nor will all the red noses at this season be confined to the lead beast in Santa's entourage! What a tragedy it is that this season intended to be so holy a reminder of God's great grace should be so thoroughly paganized, commercialized and even demonized!

It is too much to suppose that an ungodly nation will suddenly revert and put Christ into its Christmas. It much prefers, the unknown quantity of "X" and, for them, "X-mas" it will remain. However, if you know Jesus Christ as your personal sin-bearer, you should make certain that He has the prominent part in your Christmas.

Are you giving Him your main gift this year?

* * * * *

There are still not many people who have attained perfection! A Fort Madison, Iowa, pen company recently reported that it had sold in excess of 4,200,000 erasers during its past fiscal year. Apparently it is still human to err . . . FREQUENTLY!

Who's Happy in Hollywood?

No one can be happy in sin! Because of this Divine Law, it has long been this column's contention that even Hollywood stardom would not and could not provide real lasting happiness for any young man or woman who went West and climbed to the top rung of the cinema city's ladder of success. Every now and then a person on Hollywood's "inside" makes just such an admission publicly. Walter Winchell did exactly that in a recent column and perhaps repeating a few of the revealing statements that he made will be helpful.

About Brigitte Bardot, perhaps the world's biggest box office female attraction at the present, Winchell wrote: "Brigitte Bardot is gnawed by self-doubt, fear and a constant mass of anxieties. She is Eve in a Garden of Thorns . . . She has the naivete and temper



tantrums of a child. She plays with teddy bears, is a rock-n-roll fan and seems to serve the cult of perpetual immaturity. Miss Bardot once exclaimed: 'One day I will be Brigitte Bardot, the impossible dream of married men!' To a large extent her dream came true. *And in the end, the dream made reality an impossible nightmare . . .*

Of Greta Garbo, this self-labeled "man about town" said: "When Garbo reigned in Hollywood she found relief from the pressures by sitting alone in a room for hours and just moaning and moaning."

Of the glamorous Monroe, Winchell wrote: "Before facing the camera, her hands tremble, she breaks out in skin rashes and can barely speak. MM confesses she is haunted by fears and must constantly be reassured." He quotes one of her intimate friends as saying: "People close to her were amazed by her withdrawal, lack of enthusiasm and shunning all the duties of stardom. And I knew the answer. Fear. Dread of failure, fear of not being liked. She came to the movies with those fears, and despite years of psychiatric treatment, they had increased." Miss Monroe recently saw the shipwreck of her third ill-fated marriage.

Winchell quotes Lana Turner, who has had more than her share of husbands and who has not infrequently been mixed up in bitter scandal, even murder, as grimly pointing out that "it has always been a rat race getting on top, staying there and being lucky enough to hold on."

Of Judy Garland, he declared that she "is another who discovered that stardom is more of a mirage than a twinkling fairyland. For years she was tortured by private devils. Her heartaches provided fodder for countless headlines and mag yarns." He quoted her as confessing: "Problems have been the story of my life. I was always lonesome. The only time I felt accepted and wanted was when I was on the stage performing."

He wrote of the famous Miss Crawford: "Joan Crawford has admitted that her life has been a fruitless search for emotional security. She wrote in her autobiography: 'There has been no emotional security in my childhood and there has been none in love.'"

Winchell included Ava Gardner, Vivien Leigh, Ingrid Bergman, Susan Hayward, Elizabeth Taylor, Kim Novak and "many others" as having "found their crowns more burdensome than glorious." He said again, "More often than not the Golden Girls find stardom a pinwheel existence—bright but dizzying . . . Frustration and a sense of inferiority are common to the Dream Dolls."

Calling "extreme sensitivity" and "emotional stress" the common fate of Hollywood's heroes and heroines, he concluded: "Minor problems are magnified. And the curvy twinklers, for all their personal magic, are exposed as frightened children striving to find their way in the darkness."

All of which is a reminder that the Word of God insists, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isa. 57:20, 21).

The only secret of real satisfaction is summed up in the Saviour's words: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

Have you drunk?

* * * * *

Pray for Evangelist Sumner's meetings:
Thru December 20:
First Baptist Church
Monroe, Iowa
January 1-15:
Euclid Avenue Baptist Church
1306 Euclid Avenue
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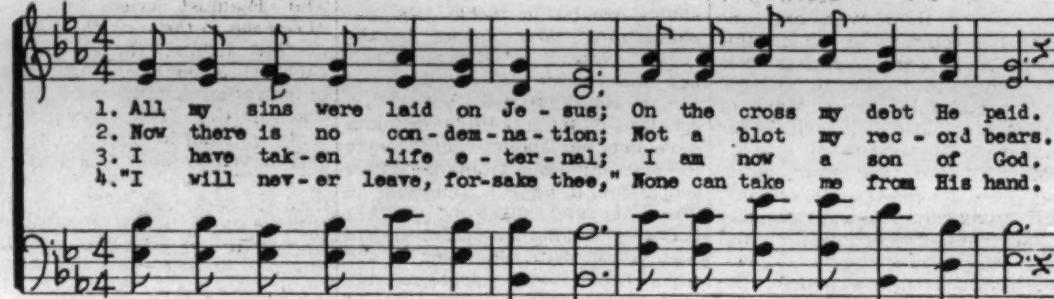
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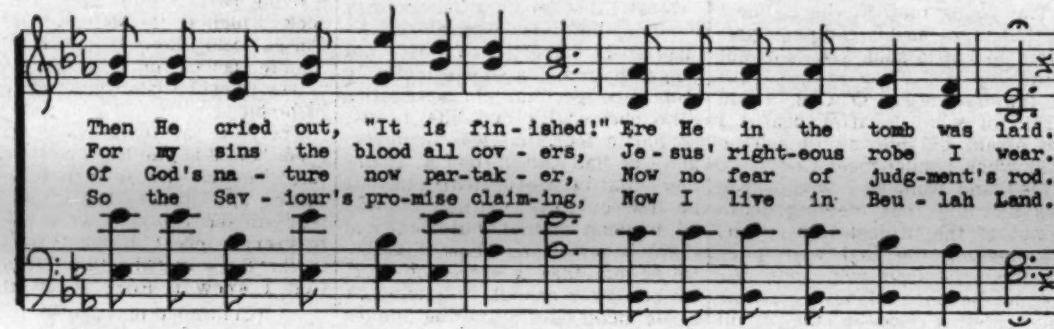
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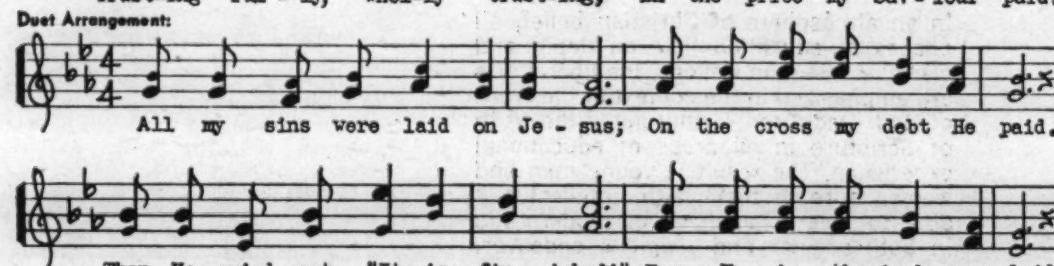
Copyright, 1960, by John R. Rice



Chorus: Rest-ing sweet-ly in His pro-mise, Rest my soul on what He said.



Trusting ful-ly, wholly trust-ing, In the price my Sav-iour paid.
Duet Arrangement:



Then He cried out, "It is fin-ished!" Ere He in the tomb was laid.

The new songbook, REVIVAL SPECIALS, has 95 solos, duets, choir numbers—all with the old-fashioned revival flavor; 25 songs by Evangelist John R. Rice. Others never before available in a book; some older special numbers not easily found. \$1.00 postpaid. 10 copies, \$7.00. Address, Sword of the Lord, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.



Bud Lyles

This is being written in the comfortable living room of the parsonage of the Central Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. The good pastor, Rev. Wilbur Cooke, has been kind to permit me to use his beautiful Magnavox Hi-Fi to audition the recordings reviewed below. We are here with Dr. Bill Rice for revival meetings. This is a strong, fundamental church with a great history.

December . . . and Christmas time. Once again the world pauses to acknowledge the birth of the Christ child. What joy floods the heart of the Christian as he considers the fulfillment of prophecy, the goodness of God bound up in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. It is cause for rejoicing and singing praise to God.

Please note two special Christmas albums reviewed here. They would certainly give much pleasure and would fill your home with the music of Christmas. They would also make meaningful gifts.

Gregory Loren is heard in an album titled HOW BIG IS GOD? We have heard many good comments on this recording and feel that all are worthy. Mr. Loren's voice is smooth and very clear. The choral support and orchestrations are superb as always when Ralph Carmichael is at work. Of this album Stuart Hamblen says, "This is not just another record; it's a new experience in music!"

A total of twelve selections include many new ones and these familiar titles: Overshadowed (very beautifully sung), Love of God, A Mighty Fortress, and Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. WORD W-3126-LP

* * *

A lovely Christmas album entitled CHRISTMAS MESSAGES IN MUSIC features Rev. Bert Jones at the organ. Mr. Jones has arranged the traditional carols and songs of Christmas into nine groups depicting (1) The Night of Nights, (2) The Town of Promise, (3) The Angels Herald, (4) The Birthday of a King, (5) Shepherds Watching, (6) Stars Shine, (7) Wise Men Journey, (8) The Babe in the Manger, (9) Joy to the World. There are eighteen selections in all. This is an excellent instrumental album for home or church. ZONDERVAN ZLP-559

* * *

On the album titled PIANO BRILLIANCE you will hear the stylings of Charles Magnuson. The Ralph Carmichael Orchestra and Chorus support Mr. Magnuson, who is heard regularly on radio with the Baptist Laymen's Hour and the Family Bible Hour. This recording ably demonstrates the talent and agility of the well-known pianist. We enjoyed the wide range of gospel songs and the variety of interpretation. Interesting effects are derived from the choral voices without words. There are twelve selections. Most of the titles are familiar ones. They include: Over the Sunset Mountain, Wonderful Words of Life, On Jordan's Stormy Banks (really outstanding), Moment By Moment, and He the Pearly Gates Will Open. Very enjoyable. WORD W-3115-LP

* * *

INSPIRING DUETS combines the voices of Gary Moore and Ralph Nielson. Each of these men has a great solo voice and each has excellent control. The blend is beautiful to hear. The voices are supported by orchestra and chorus under the direction of Scott Douglas. Twelve selections

include a solo by each singer. The duet work is spectacular. If you enjoy male voices blended in song, you will enjoy this wonderful album. Here are some of the titles: Oh, What Love, I Discovered the Way Of Gladness, God Is Love, Raise Me, Jesus, To Thy Bosom, and It Took a Miracle. ZONDERVAN ZLP-537

* * *

Mr. Lew Charles is widely known for his work in radio, television and recordings. His latest album features the NBC pipe organ. Mr. Charles plays twelve songs in his familiar meditative style. All of the titles are old favorites. They include: Lead Kindly Light (this is the title of the album), O, to Be Like Thee, Living for Jesus and Every Moment of Every Day (these two form a medley), Whiter Than Snow, Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus. A fine instrumental album. WORD W-3080-LP

* * *

We close this month's column with a lovely Christmas album called CHRISTMAS AT QUITO. This is different! So many of the Christmas albums which are available are limited to the standard carols and songs. The amazing HCJB staff has put together a delightful arrangement of Christmas music from many lands. They are sung in English, Spanish, Russian and German. We especially enjoyed the variety of rhythms and moods. There are solos, duets and chorus numbers. Accompaniment is provided by organ, piano, guitar, violin, accordion and marimba. You will like this one. It is a wonderful experience in Christmas music around the world. ZONDERVAN ZLP-546

* * *

That just about wraps up Record Reviews for December and for 1960. It has been a good year. Many outstanding recordings have passed in review. Our vote for the first prize in spiritual impact would go to the WORD production VOICES OF YESTERDAY (January's column). Others that we were especially glad to hear were: A MIGHTY FORTRESS, a Bible-

Both Comings Are Literal

There is a good story told to the effect that a Jew, being in the company of a Christian, took up a New Testament and opened it to Luke 1:32, 33: "The Lord shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever." Turning to his Christian friend the Jew asked, "How do you understand that Scripture?" The Christian answered, "Oh, it's figurative language, descriptive of Christ's spiritual reign over the Church." "Then you do not take it literally?" asked the Jew. "Certainly not!" replied the Christian. The Jew made this further remark, "Then why should you expect me to take literally what precedes, where the Scriptures say that this Son of David shall be born of a virgin? Do you believe that literally?" "Surely," answered the Christian. The Jew continued, "Why do you accept verse 31 as literal, but explain verses 32 and 33 as figurative?" "Because," answered the Christian, "verse 31 has become a fact—Jesus was so born. It was indisputable evidence." "Ah," said the Jew, "I see! You believe the Scriptures when you see them fulfilled. I believe them because they are the Word of God." Who was right in principle?

—"King's Business"

Redeemed

The Rev. J. Alexander Clark, a Scottish missionary from Africa, told in this country a very striking story of an African who had been mauled by a lioness and was almost dead. Mr. Clark cared for his wounds, and when he got well he left. After three months he came back to Mr. Clark, and said, "You know the law of the African forest, that the redeemed one belongs to the redeemer. I was dead, but I am now alive. I am yours. Here are my six wives and my children and my cattle; do with me as you will." Are we willing to surrender all to Christ like that? The secret of our lack of power and service is just this fact—we do not acknowledge that we, the redeemed, belong to the Redeemer.

—"Christ Life"

Man Sent from God

(Continued from page 2)

respecter of persons and the promises in His Word guarantee that if you will honestly put your faith and trust in Him for salvation, then you, too, will have everlasting life right now, will never come into condemnation, but will have already passed from the death of sin into the life of salvation! How great, good and gracious is God to sinners such as you and I! No wonder the Bible refers to this as a "so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3).

John Rice was certainly saved at the age of nine.

He was saved for certain at the age of twelve.



"The Bibles arrived and how thrilled we are with them," writes Miss M. L. Palmer, American Scripture Missionary in Alaska. "One young mother has memorized many verses already!"

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Prepared for Eternity

(Continued from page 1)

years I have been a Christian. Proverbs 3:5, 6:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We read in this book that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," and "the beginning of knowledge." Here is a book that tells man how to adjust the affairs of his life so as to please God. But now enough for the book in general.

I want you to notice a great lesson that God wants to teach people today by four little animals. God said there are four little animals, yet exceeding wise. These four little animals teach us four things: PREPARATION, FORTIFICATION, CO-OPERATION, AND ASPIRATION. God uses four little defenseless animals to teach us four tremendous truths that are of utmost importance to every man and woman and child in this building.

I. Preparation for Eternity

First of all, God says, "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." In this little book God says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard." God says the little ant has been given a divine characteristic and a divine wisdom and a divine knowledge. From that little ant we learn the lesson of preparation. "The ants," God said, "are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." The little ant knows that the storms of winter are coming. He knows the lean, cold days are coming when there is no food to be found. That little ant, with heavenly wisdom, makes preparation for that which he knows is inevitable.

You know, the Bible speaks so much of preparation. I sat yesterday with my Bible and considered five words from the twelfth verse of the fourth chapter of the book of Amos and how important they are. Those five words you have seen along the highways. Those five words you have seen on signs, you have seen them on little plaques in the homes of Christians: "Prepare to meet thy God."

Oh, how important it is—this matter of preparation. There is a truth that if it could dawn on every human being in this church today, what a wonderful thing it would be, and that truth is that everyone of us—small or great, young or old, saved or lost—every human being in this church today and every human soul in all this world is going to meet God. God in His Word says, "Prepare to meet thy God." That little ant had the lesson of preparation. God says to every human being, "Prepare to meet thy God."

You know, people are getting prepared for everything else today. There is military preparedness. We hear that discussed by politicians and leaders and scientists. We read it in our newspapers literally by the columns. PREPAREDNESS—be ready for the inevitable war which is going to come in the end times.

There is an educational preparedness. Emphasis is given upon being prepared for life by education. There is business preparedness. But God's Book speaks of spiritual preparedness, for the Book of God says, "Prepare to meet thy God." Every human being, every person in this choir, every child in this auditorium, every housewife, every businessman, every Christian, every lost soul, every man and every woman, without a single exception, is going to meet God.

I'll give you two verses that will prove that to you: II Corinthians 5:10—"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." That means every Christian in this house. There is not a more serious thought for a Christian. Listen—you must remember today as a Christian that every single child of God is going to appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad. You see, this business of you thinking that because you are a Christian,

you never have to give an account to God is erroneous thinking. This Bible says, "Give account of thy stewardship" I must give an account some day to God for my ministry. Every Christian in this room, every saved person, is going to meet God.

Are you prepared as a Christian to have Him review your life and your works at the judgment seat of Christ? I believe with all my heart that either a lot of Christians have never heard of the judgment seat of Christ or there are a lot of Christians who do not believe that the Bible means what it says, because I am of the opinion today that most Christians live as if there were no judgment seat where a Christian's life is examined and his works are put to the test. Most Christians live as if they will never give an account.

Most Christians live as if they would never be held responsible for their lives.

I'll give you another verse: Romans 14:12—"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." You go on through life if you will; you go on and turn a deaf ear to God if you must; you go on and refuse to conform yourself; you go on and say, "I will not listen." But remember one thing today and never forget it: this Book of God teaches that you and I are some day going to stand right before a throne and be held accountable to God for our lives. No wonder this Bible says so much about preparedness, getting ready. "Prepare to meet thy God"—five tremendous words.

A lot of folks are thinking about

getting prepared to die. That might be tremendously important, but I know something more important than getting prepared to die, and that is getting ready to meet God.

It is said that a young man in the war of the 1860's had left home and his mother had pressed into his hand a copy of the New Testament, placed a kiss upon his brow, and said, "My son, I am going to be praying for you that you shall not die unprepared."

It is said that the war became more fierce than ever, and one night the company in which this young man was a soldier was about to go into a battle, and the captain had told them, "Many of you, in fact most of us, will never come back."

Most of the men were older, they were strong veteran soldiers. This young boy was a stripling of a lad. They looked at him, and his face was as white as a sheet, and he shook like a leaf in the wind.

Someone said, "Are you chicken-hearted? Are you afraid to die?"

The young man in the stillness of that night as his company prepared to battle said, "No, I'm not afraid to die." Then he cried out in the darkness, "O God, I am afraid of what is after death! I am afraid of that awful solemn hour when I must meet God!"

Men and women, I say to you this morning that meeting death is not of the utmost importance, but meeting the God who made you and the God who gave His Son to die on a bloody cross for you—meeting God in the awful

fires of judgment is of serious and utmost importance.

No wonder God said to look at those little ants. They are exceeding wise because they prepare for the inevitable. And it is the height of stupidity for a man or woman to make no preparation for meeting God.

II. Fortification—Against Judgment

Next, we will look at another little animal. God mentions the second one here. He says that "the conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks." Now, a lot of Bible scholars, and I don't claim to be one—I'm a Bible student, but not a scholar—a lot of Bible scholars have debated about what a conie is. You can read from one Bible scholar, and he can tell you he knows beyond any shadow of a doubt, and another will tell you just the opposite. So when I come to a little knotty problem like that in the study of the Bible, I just say God knows and leave it to the Lord.

Most Bible scholars believe that a conie, however, was about the size of a domestic cat. He had longer hair and a shorter tail. He had some peculiar characteristics—he chewed his cud like a cow, he had a foot that was uncloven, and God had said in the Old Testament that he was unclean and that no Jew could ever eat him. He was an unclean animal, but God said there is something about that little animal that is exceeding wise. He has sense enough to know that he is defenseless, and he makes

his home in the rocks. So he teaches us the lesson of FORTIFICATION. He said, "I have sense enough to know I cannot fight myself; so I will make my home in the rock yonder where there is safety." And all through the Bible, Christ, God the Father, and salvation are pictured as a rock.

The old Psalmist used to talk about it. "The Lord is my rock and my fortress." He said, "He brought me up out of a pit and set my feet upon a solid rock." The Psalmist cried one time, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," and the rock in the Bible is a picture of the home or salvation for the soul that is trusting God. The "rock" represents spiritual fortification against evil, adversity and judgment.

Jesus in the New Testament used a rock as an illustration. When talking to His disciples, He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." I thank God today that the church of Jesus Christ, of which I am a living part, is built upon a solid rock, which is the deity of Jesus Christ. And there is not enough atomic power or any satanical power to ever shake that rock one little bit.

There is an expression often used, "Solid as the Rock of Gibraltar," but we are told that some years ago great boatloads of ready-mixed concrete were taken to prepare great, broken crevices in the Rock of Gibraltar. I thank God I know a Rock today that

(Continued on page 8)

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Prepared for Eternity

(Continued from page 7)

shall never be broken and that shall never be shaken one bit. When the stars fall from the heavens like ripened fruit from a shaken tree; when every mountain is crumbled to dust; when this old world has been destroyed, thank God, the Rock, the Son of God, shall stand absolutely unshaken. And He is my fortification today from the storms of judgment.

Old Simon Peter—he had had sort of an up-and-down situation—was like a lot of us. He talked big and lived kind of little. He bragged about what he was going to do spiritually but never did it. One day in that upper room after Jesus had been gone for ten days, the Holy Spirit came down in wonderful power, and for the first time in all of his experience, old Simon Peter got straightened up, and he got a fence rail for a backbone. He got the glory of God in his soul, and he got on the Rock.

In later years Simon Peter spoke of Jesus as a "living stone." Nothing shaky about that! Everybody is talking about how shaky things are—not for a Christian. Things may be shaky in business, shaky internationally, and they are. This Book of God teaches that beyond any shadow of a doubt there is to be a great world conflict with Russia, and nations involved in a war that will be so cruel it will take seven months to bury the dead.

My friends, if there is any part of wisdom in your soul today, be fortified! God says that little conie is unclean; he chews his cud—a little animal with uncloven foot, worth nothing, can't defend himself, but he's got something up there (his head). The little old conie said, "I'm going to get up there and find me a hole in the rock. When the storms come and the big animals come, I'm going to be all right."

I will never forget, when at nineteen years of age, twenty-five years ago, when I felt divine pressure in my soul, I could feel the storm clouds of judgment, I could see the seriousness of God's wrath poured out upon Jesus on Calvary. I could see myself condemned and unclean and unworthy.

I cried, "Oh, lead me to a Rock that is higher than I." Thank God, I found a refuge. Twenty-five years I have been under the Rock, and I have been singing:

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleane me from its guilt and power.*

Thank God, I'm on the Rock! I don't know where you are, and

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I don't know what you think about me, and I just couldn't possibly care any less—I'm on the Rock! You let these old modernists and educated folks laugh at the Bible and laugh at Christians, make fun of Tom Malone and people who believe the Bible and believe in getting people saved, make fun of Emmanuel Baptist Church—you wait a while, you just wait! Some of these days their foundations are going to crumble like a matchbox. You and I are going to be standing on the Rock shouting Hallelujah!

You may think I'm mean, but I'm going to be kind of happy when God gets around to settling up the scores. I'm going to enjoy every minute of it. When that angel gets the Devil by the nape of the neck and binds him in chains and puts him in the bottomless pit and puts the lid on and says, "Stay there for a thousand years," I'm going to say, "Lord, make it two thousand." When all the mockers and scoffers who ridiculed the bodily resurrection, the coming of Christ, His deity, His blood—when God gets them by the nape of the neck and shakes them and they begin to cry to the mountains, "Fall on us and hide us from the wrath of the Lamb that sitteth on the throne," I'm going to be up there somewhere on a star and I'm going to say, "Hallelujah! Give it to them!" You say, "Boy, you're mean." Well, maybe I am. Are you just now finding that out? I've known that for forty-four years. I knew I was mean when I was a baby. Yes sir, I'm going to rejoice with God.

Let me tell you—when the Lord is lifted up, and every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess, every Christian heart is going to say, "Hallelujah! He's Lord of lords and King of kings." It is going to be a great day. Are you on the Rock today?

III. Co-operation—In The Work of God

I noticed another little animal. God said, "The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands." You know, we go around fighting each other. Little locusts are too smart for that—they say, "Let's get together." And though they teach us the lesson of co-operation, they teach us the lesson of fellowship, and no Christian has ever grown or amounted to much unless he puts in an important place in his life this matter of Christian fellowship. I don't care who you are you can't be a good Christian without Christian fellowship. You go on—find your friends in the world, people who are unsaved and without God and know not Christ. Go ahead! You'll never grow one bit; you'll never go forward; you'll never have victory, and you'll never know what real Christian joy is.

This Bible says, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

So many people today are trying not only to be something big, but know somebody big. They want to know somebody who has either gone way up yonder or has got something. Old Moses spent forty years trying to be big, and God sent him to the back side of the desert for forty years to let him learn how to be nothing, and then for forty years he lived as if God were everything! I'd rather be with the people of God than with anybody on this earth. I know I'm probably a lot meaner than any Christian in this room, but I can say one thing this morning and tell the truth: God's people are my crowd. Oh, if you want me to be miserable you just put me some place where there are no Christians.

Now, I have been there a few times, where as far as I knew there was not a Christian around. I've learned something, though, about what to do in cases like that. You get on a train, or bus, or airplane, and if you want to solve a lot of problems and be sure everyone leaves you alone, except if you want to witness, just get you a great big Bible about the size of this one, and open it up and start reading and with a red pencil, start marking. You won't get into any problems! You won't even get a cup of coffee! The stewardess won't have much to do with you. Oh, I just love to be with God's people, I really do.

I look forward to coming to church. I'm here every day of my life from 9:00 to 5:00, in and out, sometimes from 9:00 until God only knows when, but I just can't wait to get over here. I like to hear the choir sing; I like to see folks smile; I like to watch some of you squirm! I have fun; I love it, I really do. I enjoy it. I just love to be with God's people. I can go to a place where I don't know one human being, like I have done many times, get into a group of Christians and have the time of my life. That is the way God wants it.

That's why Hebrews 10:25 says, "Forsaking not the assembling of yourselves together."

That's why in Ephesians Paul said, "He hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." You see, there is a togetherness about the people of God, and there's something wrong with the so-called professing Christian who doesn't like that togetherness and that fellowship.

The locusts teach us the lesson of co-operation. I wish I could go on with that. Co-operation—you know, there are so many Christians who do not know what that word means in matters spiritual. They don't know. I have never seen such a day when Christians wanted no semblance of co-operation.

They want it to be like it was in the book of Judges, "Every man did that which was right in his

own eyes." A lot of Christians today don't want a leader. You know why? Because they don't want what the Bible says is the way it is supposed to be.

Everything God ever made has a head to it. I paid the last 25 cents I had one time to see a calf in a circus that had two heads. Why? It was a freak of nature. If you ever find a home with two heads, it is a freak of nature. It ought to be in the circus. If you ever find a church with more than one head, it ought to be put in a tent somewhere and charge people to see it. Amen? Thank you, I'll remind you of that Amen some of these days. God's people are to co-operate together and to fellowship together as the Bible says. Oh, that is a wonderful thing to see, and we have it here.

When I was a little boy I read something that just startled my heart. A little boy had been lost in the wheat fields in the Midwest somewhere, and darkness came on and they had not found him. And I read how they said they would never find him just going here and there, one and two here.

One good man said, "If we ever find that boy we must get out in these wheat fields and join hands, make a great long line of men and women whose one purpose is to find the lost child. Join our hands and we'll walk these fields until daylight comes."

The story told how they joined hands, and great bands of them walked across the fields, and that

night somebody cried, "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Here he is! Here he is!" He reached down and picked up, unharmed, out of the wheat fields that dark night, the little lost child.

And if we are ever to win the people of Pontiac and send the Gospel to the ends of the earth until every man and woman, boy and girl, has had a chance to hear it one time, there must be a fellowship, a mutuality of faith and purpose. Those little locusts had that lesson.

IV. Aspiration—for Heaven

I close hurriedly. It mentions another little animal—the spider or as some translations would have it, the lizard. A very undesirable little thing. "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king's palaces." Now, listen! What business does a spider have in a king's palace? That little spider has aspirations, and he finds himself in the palace of the king. Now there is the lesson of aspiration, the aspiring for the greatest and the highest.

Sometimes I just sit down and start thinking about the goodness of God to me, where I find myself in the body of Christ in the midst of good, born-again people, so many blessings, Christian friends and family. I say to myself, "My, what am I doing here—in the king's palace?" And I get to thinking sometimes about Heaven. Like Paul thought about it, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark," and we are told that the picture is that Paul is actually standing on his tiptoes reaching toward Heaven.

Every day of his life he just reached out and he aspired, and he longed, and he craved, and he wanted to be in the king's palace. One day toward the end of the trail he said, "I am in a strait betwixt two." I have two strong desires—one is to stay with you, but he said the other would be far better—"to depart and to be with Christ." He stood as if on his tiptoes reaching toward Heaven.

Oh, I would today that we Christians would think about Heaven and reach that way and look that way and work as if Heaven were going to be real soon for us. We read of Abraham "looking for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Qd Abraham was called out of the Ur of Chaldees, and that old city had the strongest foundation of any city you have ever read of. The foundations are right there to this very hour. They have never been destroyed in all these thousands of years. When Abraham came out of that city, the Bible said every step he took, he looked for a city which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God. He just walked looking for Heaven all the time.

One of the members of our church died. Not long after this lady had died, my wife and I were in that home talking to the family. We learned how she died, and how wonderful it was. She was looking for Heaven. She lay there on the bed and the window was open, and she looked out the window, and death was coming and she knew it. In a little while, looking out the open window, she lifted up her

(Continued on page 12)

Christmas All Year!

(Continued from page 1)

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The Birth of Christ

(Continued from page 1)

(Gen. 49:10). The Jews were coming under the dominion and taxation of a foreign power. Strangers were beginning to rule over them. They had no longer a really independent government of their own. The "due time" had come for the promised Messiah to appear. Augustus taxes "the world," and at once Christ is born.

It was a time peculiarly suitable for the introduction of Christ's Gospel. The whole civilized earth was at length governed by one master (Dan. 2:40). There was nothing to prevent the preacher of a new faith going from city to city, and country to country. The princes and priests of the heathen world had been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Egypt and Assyria and Babylon and Persia and Greece and Rome had all successively proved that "the world by wisdom knew not God" (I Cor. 1:21). Notwithstanding their mighty conquerors and poets and historians and architects and philosophers the kingdoms of the world were full of dark idolatry. It was indeed "due time" for God to interpose from Heaven, and send down an almighty Saviour. It was "due time" for Christ to be born (Rom. 5:6).

Let us ever rest our souls on the thought, that times are in God's hand (Psalm 31:15). He knows the best season for sending help to His church, and new light to the world. Let us beware of giving way to over anxiety about the course of events around us, as if we knew better than the King of kings what time relief should come. "Cease, Philip, to try to govern the world," was a frequent saying of Luther to an anxious friend. It was a saying full of wisdom.

Born In Bethlehem as Prophesied

Let us notice, secondly, the place where Christ was born. It was not at Nazareth of Galilee, where His mother, the Virgin Mary, lived. The prophet Micah had foretold that the event was to take place at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). And so it came to pass. At Bethlehem Christ was born.

The overruling providence of God appears in this simple fact. He orders all things in Heaven and earth. He turns the hearts of kings whithersoever He will. He overruled the time when Augustus decreed the taxing. He directed the enforcement of the decree in such a way, that Mary must needs be at Bethlehem when "the days were accomplished that she should be delivered." Little did the haughty Roman emperor and his officer Cyrenius, think that they were only instruments in the hand of the God of Israel, and were only carrying out the eternal purposes of the King of kings. Little did they think that they were helping to lay the foundation of a kingdom, before which the empires of this world would all go down one day, and Roman idolatry pass away. The words of Isaiah, upon a like occasion, should be remembered, "He meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so" (Isa. 10:7).

The heart of a believer should take comfort in the recollection of God's providential government of the world. A true Christian should never be greatly moved or disquieted by the conduct of the rulers of the earth. He should see with the eye of faith a hand overruling all that they do to the praise and glory of God. He should regard every king and potentate—an Augustus, a Cyrenius, a Darius, a Cyrus, a Sennacherib—as a creature who, with all his power, can do nothing but what God allows, and nothing which is not carrying out God's will. And when the rulers of this world "set themselves against the Lord," he should take comfort in the words of Solomon, "There be higher than they" (Eccles. 5:8).

Born In Poverty

Let us notice, lastly, the manner in which Christ was born. He was not born under the roof of His mother's house, but in a strange place, and at an "inn." When born, He was not laid in a carefully prepared cradle. He was laid "in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

We see here the grace and con-

descension of Christ. Had He come to save mankind with royal majesty, surrounded by His Father's angels, it would have been an act of undeserved mercy. Had He chosen to dwell in a palace, with power and great authority, we should have had reason enough to wonder. But to become poor as the very poorest of mankind, and lowly as the very lowliest—this is a love that passeth knowledge. It is unspeakable and unsearchable.

Never let us forget that through this humiliation Jesus has purchased for us a title to glory. Through His life of suffering, as well as His death, He has obtained eternal redemption for us. All through His life He was poor for our sakes, from the hour of His birth to the hour of His death. And through His poverty we are made rich (II Cor. 8:9).

Let us beware of despising the poor, because of their poverty. Their condition is one which the Son of God has sanctified and honoured, by taking it voluntarily on Himself. God is no respecter of persons. He looks at the hearts of men, and not at their incomes. Let us never be ashamed of the cross of poverty, if God thinks fit to lay it upon us. To be godless and covetous is disgraceful, but it is no disgrace to be poor. A mean dwelling place, and coarse food, and a hard bed, are not pleasing to flesh and blood. But they are the portion which the Lord Jesus Himself willingly accepted from the day of His entrance into the world. Wealth ruins far more souls than poverty. When the love of money begins to creep over us, let us think of the manger at Bethlehem, and of Him who was laid in it. Such thoughts may deliver us from much harm.

Notes. Luke 2:1-7

1.—[Caesar Augustus.] This is that Octavian who, after the defeat of Antony and Cleopatra at Actium, took the government of the Roman Empire into his own hands, and was, properly speaking, the first Caesar, or Roman Emperor.

[Taxed.] The word so translated, might be equally well rendered "enrolled." It is so in the margin. In the only other place in the New Testament, where it is used, it is translated "written." Heb. 12:23.

3.—[All went to be taxed.] Quesnel remarks, "Augustus imagines that he is busied in advancing the glory of his name, and the lustre of his reign. And yet his orders, by means of others more powerful and absolute than his, become subservient to the accomplishment of prophecies, of which he is altogether ignorant—to the birth of a king whom he will never know—and to the establishment of a monarchy, which will subject his and all others to itself. This is what happens in all ages, and men take no notice of it."

7.—[No room in the Inn.] One fact should be carefully noted here, which is often entirely overlooked. In the providence of God the birth of Christ was attended with as much publicity as a birth could possibly be attended with. It took place at an inn, and an inn crowded with strangers from all parts. Imposture was thus rendered impossible. The event was patent to many witnesses, and could never be denied. The Son of God was really incarnate, and literally and really born of a woman, like any of ourselves. Had the birth taken place quietly at Nazareth, or in some private house at Bethlehem, in thirty years time the whole event would probably have been denied.

Angels and Shepherds

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

"good tidings," there never were tidings that deserved the name.

The Praise of Angels

Let us mark, thirdly, who they were that first praised God, when Christ was born. They were angels, and not men—angels who had never sinned, and needed no Saviour—angels who had not fallen, and required no redeemer, and no atoning blood. The first hymn to the honour of "God manifest in the flesh," was sung by "a multitude of the heavenly host."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

—Luke 2:8-20.

We read, in these verses, how the birth of the Lord Jesus was first announced to the children of men. The birth of a king's son is generally made an occasion of public revelling and rejoicing. The announcement of the birth of the Prince of Peace was made privately, at midnight, and without anything of worldly pomp and ostentation.

Christ's Coming Announced To Poor Shepherds, Not the Rich or Great

Let us mark who they were to whom the tidings first came that Christ was born. They were "shepherds abiding in the field [near Bethlehem], keeping watch over their flocks by night." To shepherds—not to priests and rulers—to shepherds—not to Scribes and Pharisees, an angel appeared, proclaiming, "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The saying of St. James should come into our mind, as we read these words: "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom, which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5). The want of money debars no one from spiritual privileges. The things of God's kingdom are often hid from the great and noble, and revealed to the poor. The busy labour of the hands need not prevent a man being favoured with special communion with God. Moses was keeping sheep—Gideon was threshing wheat—Elisha was ploughing, when they were severally honoured by direct calls and revelations from God. Let us resist the suggestion of Satan, that religion is not for the working man. The weak of the world are often called before the mighty. The last are often first, and the first last.

Tidings of Joy!

Let us mark, secondly, the language used by the angel in announcing Christ's birth to the shepherds. He said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

We need not wonder at these words. The spiritual darkness which had covered the earth for four thousand years, was about to be rolled away. The way to pardon and peace with God was about to be thrown open to all mankind. The head of Satan was about to be bruised. Liberty was about to be proclaimed to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind. The mighty truth was about to be proclaimed that God could be just, and yet, for Christ's sake, justify the ungodly. Salvation was no longer to be seen through types and figures, but openly, and face to face. The knowledge of God was no longer to be confined to the Jews, but to be offered to the whole Gentile world. The days of heathenism were numbered. If this was not

mercy remained to be fully revealed by the appearing and atonement of Jesus Christ.

Such was the purport of the angels' song. Happy are they that can enter into its meaning, and with their hearts subscribe to its contents. The man who hopes to dwell in Heaven should have some experimental acquaintance with the language of its inhabitants.

Prompt, Believing Obedience of the Shepherds

Let us mark, ere we leave the passage, the prompt obedience to the heavenly vision displayed by the shepherds. We see in them no doubts, or questionings, or hesitation. Strange and improbable as the tidings might seem, they at once act upon them. They went to Bethlehem in haste. They found everything exactly as it had been told them. Their simple faith received a rich reward. They had the mighty privilege of being the first of all mankind, after Mary and Joseph, who saw with believing eyes the new-born Messiah. They soon returned, "glorifying and praising God" for what they had seen.

May our spirit be like theirs! May we ever believe implicitly, act promptly, and wait for nothing, when the path of duty is clear! So doing, we shall have a reward like that of the shepherds. The journey that is begun in faith, will generally end in praise.

Verse 16 says "They came with haste." There is a touching comment on this conduct of the shepherds in a letter of Bishop Hooper's to certain "godly and faithful prisoners, which were taken together at prayer in a house in Bow Churchyard." He says, "Read the second chapter of St. Luke, and there ye shall see how the shepherds that watched their sheep all night, as soon as they heard that Christ was born at Bethlehem, by and by must go to see him. They did not reason nor debate with themselves who should keep the wolf from the sheep in the meantime, but did as they were commanded, and committed their sheep to Him whose pleasure they obeyed. So let us do, now we be called; let us commit all other things unto Him that called us. He will take heed that all things shall be well. He will help the husband; He will comfort the wife. He will guide the servants; He will keep the house; He will preserve the goods; yea, rather than it should be undone, He will wash the dishes, and rock the cradle. Cast, therefore, all your care upon God."—Hooper's Works. Parker Edit. Vol. ii. 617.

(From RYLE'S EXPOSITORY NOTES ON THE GOSPELS 4 volumes, \$4.95 per volume, Zondervan Bros.)

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Lodges Examined by the Bible

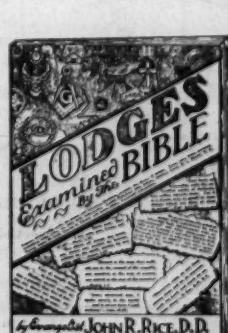
By John R. Rice

Yes, examined and found wanting! Although many Christians join in good faith, oaths are found blasphemous; lodges found to be a false, pagan religion, damning multitudes of souls; lodges found to be a swindle. Christians sin by joining lodges and taking their oaths. Christians should renounce and break lodge oaths, should "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

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Searching the Scriptures

II Peter 3

When Christ Comes Back for His Own

Clues Across

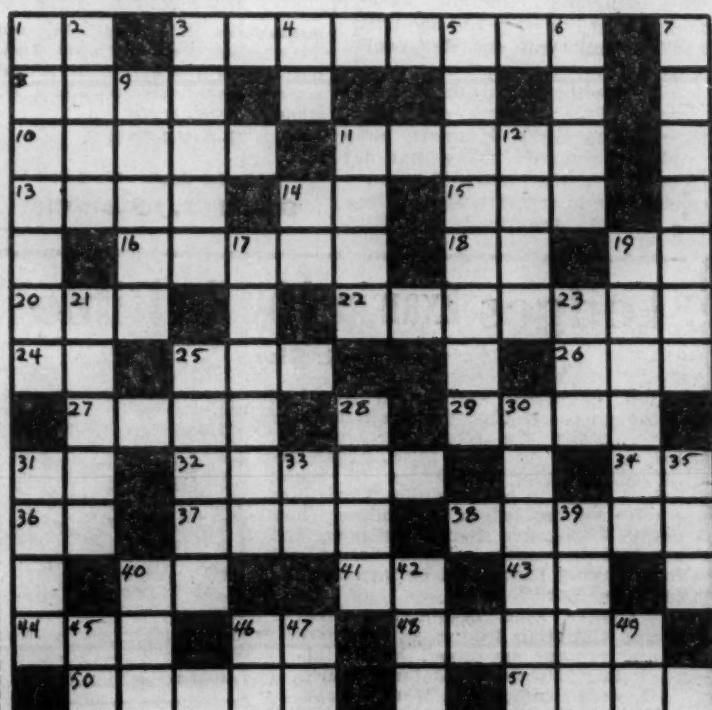
- "Seeing then that all these things shall _____ dissolved"
- 32 "be _____ that ye may be _____ of him in peace, without spot"
- 8 "Why do the heathen _____?" Ps. 2
- 10 father of Paeliel (Num. 1:13)
- 11 "seeing ye know _____ things before"
- 13 "Knowing this first, _____ there shall come in the last days scoffers"
- 14 "seeing that _____ look for such things"
- 15 "That ye _____ be mindful of the words which were spoken before"
- 16 "Son, be of good _____; thy sins be forgiven" Matt. 9
- 18 printer's measure
- 19 "God is light, and in him is no darkness _____ all" I John 1
- 20 "the poor man had nothing save one little _____ lamb" II Sam. 12
- 22 "That ye may be _____ of the words which were spoken before"
- 24 initials of wife and son of Boaz (Ruth 4:13, 17)
- 25 "Joshua . . . sent out of Shittim two men to _____ secretly" Josh. 2
- 26 "I _____ no pleasant bread" Dan. 10
- 27 "he was armed with a coat of _____" I Sam. 17
- 29 son sent to replace Abel (Gen. 4:25)
- 31 "But, beloved, _____ not ignorant of this one thing"
- 32 see 2 across
- 34 "reserved unto fire against the day _____ judgment"
- 36 "the heavens being _____ fire shall be dissolved"
- 37 "if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in _____" Matt. 11
- 38 capital of Egypt; on the Nile River
- 40 "one day is with the Lord _____ a thousand years"
- 41 initials of wife and father of Isaac (Gen. 24:67; 25:5)
- 43 "the day of the Lord will come as a thief _____ the night"
- 44 "according to the wisdom given unto _____"
- 46 "grow _____ grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord"
- 48 "Grace and _____ be multiplied unto you" II Pet. 1
- 50 "Knowing this _____, that there shall come"
- 51 "by the _____ word are kept in store"

Clues Down

- "even as our beloved _____ Paul also . . . hath written"
- "in lowliness of mind let _____ esteem other better than themselves" Phil. 2
- "being put to _____ in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" I Pet. 3
- "Ye looked for much, and, _____, it came to little" Hag. 1:9
- "the _____ shall melt with fervent heat"
- "For this _____ willingly are ignorant of"
- "This second _____, beloved, I now write"
- "But grow in _____, and in the knowledge of our Lord"
- "Thou shalt no more be _____ (ed) Forsaken" Isa. 62
- "as the _____ which is upon the sea shore" Gen. 22
- "what manner of persons ought to be"
- "thou shalt not cut them down . . . to _____ them in the siege" Deut. 20
- "And being made perfect, he became the _____ of eternal salvation" Heb. 5
- "the holy _____ also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves" I Pet. 3
- "The liberal soul shall be made _____" Prov. 11
- "winnows, as wheat (Luke 22: 31)
- "a young friend of Abraham (Gen. 14:13)
- "book of the Bible from which Jesus read in the synagogue (Luke 4:17)
- "in _____ which I stir up your pure minds"
- "city from which God called Abraham (Gen. 15:7)
- "Looking _____ and hastening unto the coming of the day of God"
- "highly civilized South American Indians"
- "descendents of this servant of Solomon came back to Jerusalem out of captivity (Ezra 2:57)
- "Given to hospitality, _____ to teach" I Tim. 3
- "_____ ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things" Col. 3
- "Where _____ the promise of his coming?"
- "initials of two names for the man who led the children of Israel to rebuild Jerusalem (Neh. 7:70; 8:9)
- 49 printer's measure

Deadline: December 26

Puzzle No. 51



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Many a child is spoiled because you can't spank two grandmothers.
—Town Journal

If your Christianity won't work where you are, it won't work anywhere.—Vance Haveer

The Christ of Christmas Is Coming Again

(Continued from page 1)

Prophecy in Seven Parts

Please notice that the angel made seven distinct statements or prophecies.

1. She would give birth to a Son.

2. His name would be Jesus.

3. He would be great.

4. He would be acknowledged as God ("be called the Son of the Highest").

5. God would give Him the throne of His father David.

6. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever.

7. Once He began to reign, His kingdom would never end.

Now here was an angel who had come straight from God to talk to Mary. He had a message straight from God. In fact, the very word "angel" means "messenger." He told her that these seven things would happen. But did they?

No, sir! They did not!

Just exactly one half of what the angel said would happen did happen.

He said she would bring forth a Son and that happened.

He said she would call Him Jesus, and she did.

He said Jesus would be great, and He was.

But next the angel said that Jesus would be called "the Son of the Highest." That is, He would be acknowledged as God.

But was Jesus acknowledged as God? Well, by many He certainly was. I believe Simon Peter was speaking for all true disciples when he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:69). After His death the centurion said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54). After His resurrection Thomas called Him "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

There were others, however, who vigorously denied that Jesus was God. As a matter of fact, this was the main charge the Jews had against Him. They said, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God" (John 19:7). They said Jesus was guilty of blasphemy because He claimed to be the Son of God, and they demanded that He be put to death.

Actually, this world never has acknowledged Jesus Christ as God. We who are saved do, but the world as a whole does not now and never has. Even in so-called Christian America there are multiplied thousands of atheists, infidels, agnostics, and modernists who deny the deity of Christ.

The angel said Jesus would reign from David's throne. But He never did. Jesus never reigned one single day in His life from David's throne. The only crown He ever wore was a painful crown of thorns. The only scepter He ever wielded was a reed thrust into His hand in cruel mockery.

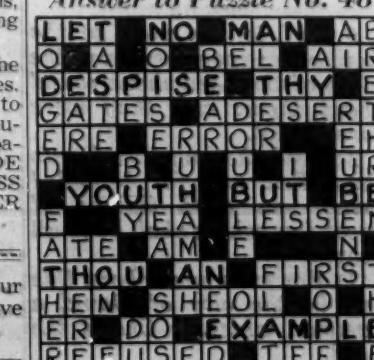
"Oh," but someone says, "Jesus never intended to actually reign over people like a king. He is just reigning in our hearts."

Whose hearts? Do you mean to tell me that Jesus is reigning in the hearts of the people of this world today! Today—when nations are arming to the teeth, when war is imminent, when vice and crime, lewdness and lust, lawlessness and godlessness are on every hand!

Or perhaps you say, "Jesus is just reigning in the hearts of the Christian people."

What Christian people? We have 'steen teen dozen different denominations today because Christian people cannot agree on Bible doctrine. Even those churches that

Answer to Puzzle No. 48



It is no use to wait for your ship to come in, unless you have sent one out.—Belgian Proverb.

agree in the main on Bible doctrine still cannot get along together. That is why we have American Baptists, Southern Baptists, Regular Baptists, Conservative Baptists, Fundamental Baptists, Bible Baptists, and no telling how many other kinds of Baptists!

Why, good neighbor, Christians don't even get along in local churches. That is why we have church splits, and the splits split, and the splits of the splits split! That is why we have fussing and backbiting, fifth columns, and open warfare in our churches! Surely you cannot believe that Jesus Christ is directing all of this!

The sad truth is that Jesus is not reigning at all in the hearts of the unsaved people of this world, and an even sadder truth is that we who are saved do not allow Him to reign perfectly in our hearts.

But the angel wasn't talking about His reigning in hearts, anyway. He was talking about Jesus literally, actually reigning on David's throne as a king. The angel said that He would, and the plain fact is that He did not.

The angel said that Jesus would reign over the house of "Jacob" forever. He would be the ruler of the Jews. But this never did happen. The Jewish people rejected Jesus. John 1:11 plainly says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." The Jews did not then and do not now acknowledge Jesus Christ as their king.

Finally, the angel said that when Jesus began to reign He would reign forever. But He never did begin. This is another statement or prophecy that quite plainly was not fulfilled.

Of the seven statements the angel made, the seven prophecies, only one half of them were fulfilled. Mary did bring forth a Son, and His name was Jesus, and He was great. But only part of the people acknowledged that He was God. He never did reign from David's throne, He never did reign over the Jews, and since His kingdom never did begin, it certainly cannot be said to be endless.

True or False?

Was the angel right or wrong? Either what he said was true or it was not true.

Modernists say that the angel did not speak the truth. They say that God intended for Jesus to reign from David's throne and intended that He would reign over the Jewish people forever but that Jesus simply could not put it over!

But the angel is right and the modernists are wrong. The simple truth is that every statement the angel made was absolutely true and Jesus Christ is going to do everything the angel said that He would do. This means, of course, that Jesus Christ is coming again.

Scriptures That Clearly Teach The Second Coming of Christ

There are many, many Scriptures that plainly tell us that Jesus Christ is going to come back to this earth again:

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."—Acts 1:11.

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."—Phil. 3:20.

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."—Heb. 9:28.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."—John 14:1-3.

Focal Points of History

All the history of all the world revolves around two great focal points—the first and the second

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The Christ of Christmas Is Coming Again

(Continued from page 10)

coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth.

He came the first time as the Lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world. He will come the second time as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

He came the first time as a servant. He will come the second time to reign.

He came the first time as the Rock of our salvation. He will come the second time as the great Stone in Daniel that will grind to powder the empires of the earth.

He came the first time as the meek and lowly One. The smoking flax He would not quench, the bruised reed He would not break. He will come the second time to tread the winepress of vengeance of the Lord God Almighty.

He came the first time to be judged by wicked men. He will come the second time to be the Judge of all the men who ever walked on the face of the earth.

He came the first time to die for our sins. He will come again as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to reign with His saints forever.

Between the Mountains

Years ago a friend and I were riding on horseback in an Arizona desert. As we stopped to rest our horses I began studying a range of mountains in the distance.

I noticed that some of the mountain peaks were a brownish gray in color while other peaks seemed to be more of a purple color.

When I asked my friend why the peaks were not all the same color he grinned and replied that actually I was looking at two different ranges of mountains. The mountains that appeared to be a brownish gray were in one range, and the purple peaks were in another range sixty or seventy miles further away. But from where we sat on our horses, the mountains appeared to be together. I could distinctly see all the peaks in the distance but did not dream there were sixty or seventy miles of desert between those mountains.

That is the way it was with the prophecies concerning Christ. Isaiah clearly saw that Jesus would be born of a virgin, would become a Man who was also God, and that He would reign forever. From Isaiah 53 we realize that the prophet also saw the death of Jesus Christ. But he probably did not dream that these prophecies would not be fulfilled at the same time. It is doubtful if Isaiah knew that this span of years we call the "church age" would come between the time when Jesus would make His death with the wicked and the time He would come again to reign forever.

But as we look back in the pages of Scripture we realize that God had this in mind all the time. It had always been in the mind of God that Jesus would come the first time to fulfill part of the prophecies and that He would come the second time to finish the work that God had ordained He should do.

Yes, the Christ of Christmas is definitely coming again.

II. How He Is Coming

How will Jesus come when He appears the second time? Second Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night . . ." First Thessalonians 5:2 also says, ". . . the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." Jesus Himself said in Revelation 16:15, "Behold, I come as a thief . . ."

But the Bible also says that Jesus will come openly from Heaven and ". . . all the tribes of the earth . . . shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt. 24:30). Matthew 26:84, Mark 14:62, and Luke 21:27 also tell us that the coming of Christ will be a great public occasion when He will be seen by the peoples of the earth.

Could Jesus come as a thief and still come publicly? Could He come secretly and yet come openly the second time?

Yes, He can and He will.

Lincoln at Gettysburg

Not long ago on the way from one revival to another I passed through the little town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. My lovely wife was with me. We did as I have done again and again. We parked the car in the town circle and made our way to the upstairs room where Abraham Lincoln spent the night before he made his famous Gettysburg Address.

While riding on the train from Washington to Gettysburg, Lincoln had worked on his speech. When he arrived in Gettysburg he was taken quietly to the home of a friend. He spent the evening and the night in this house. His fellowship was limited to a few personal friends. After the evening meal he went to his bedroom and sat down at a small table to work on his speech. After awhile he was interrupted by a band playing in the street and the shouts of the townspeople asking him to make an appearance. He went to the window and looked down upon the crowd. He told the people he was weary and would not address them until the following day. But, he added, he would appreciate it if the band would play one of his favorite songs. Of course the band would be glad to comply and played the song that Lincoln requested. It was—I am so glad to say—"Dixie." Then Lincoln went back to his chair and table and completed his speech.

The next day Abraham Lincoln "came to Gettysburg." He rode in the great parade, was seen by thousands and thousands of people, and delivered one of the greatest speeches in the history of man—the Gettysburg Address.

Now, neighbor, when did Lincoln actually come to Gettysburg? Well, it all depends on what you mean. If you mean when did he actually arrive the first time, then it was November 18, 1863. But if you mean when did Abraham Lincoln make his public appearance to thousands of people, make his famous address, etc., then it was November 19, 1863.

Second Coming in Two Phases

So there are two phases to the second coming of the Lord Jesus. First He will come as "a thief in the night." After a period of time (seven years, I think) He will appear publicly in all the power, glory, and majesty of the eternal King. Here we are concerned with the first phase of His coming.

As a Thief

A thief comes secretly, unexpectedly. He does not walk up to the door, ring the bell, and then say, "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. Brown. I have come to steal the silverware!" No, he waits until the Browns are gone, and then he secretly comes and takes the things that are of value to him.

So when Jesus comes again, He will not announce His coming. He will come secretly. Matthew 24:36 says, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

There are other verses where Jesus said the same thing.

Matthew 24:42 says, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:44 says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Matthew 25:13 says, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Luke 12:40 says, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

So when Jesus comes as a thief, He will come secretly. The world will not know He has come until it misses that which Jesus takes away. What is Jesus coming for? He is coming for that which is precious to Him. He is coming for His bride—for those He has redeemed with His blood. If you are saved, He is coming for you.

III. What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Again

The first thing we will consider is the rapture of all the saved ones, of all the saints. Then we will consider the fact that all the unsaved will be left behind.

The Rapture

That word "rapture" is not a Bible word but it is the best word we know to describe the most wonderful experience any of us will ever have. It will be the time when all those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and, together with all living Christians, will be caught up to be with Christ. Just think—all Christians all over the entire world will suddenly be taken from homes, churches, schools, automobiles, airplanes, trains, or wherever they may be!

"Grab the Wheel Quick!"

After I spoke at the Moody Church in Chicago one night the late Noel Lyons offered to drive me to the airport. I protested that he worked hard and I knew he was tired, and since my plane did not leave until about midnight I would have plenty of time to get there some other way. But he said we weren't together very much anymore and he really wanted to howdy with me for awhile. We would drive to the airport, get a bite to eat, and then visit until plane time.

We got in his Chrysler and began driving across the city of Chicago. As we often did, we began to talk about the second coming of Christ. This reminded him of something and, pointing to a piece of paper glued to the glove compartment door, he said, "Read that." He switched on a light and we both chuckled as I read something like this:

"Jesus Christ is coming again. At first He is going to stop up in the clouds and every believer on earth will suddenly be caught up to be with Him. This event may take place at any moment. If it happens while you are riding

A Cradle Hymn

By ISAAC WATTS

Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care or payment:
All thy wants are well supplied.

How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heaven He descended
And became a child like thee!

Soft and easy in thy cradle:
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable
And His softest bed was hay.

Blessed babe! what glorious feature—
Spotless fair, divinely bright!
Must He dwell with brutal creatures?
How could angels bear the sight?

Was there nothing but a manger
Cursed sinners could afford
To receive the heavenly stranger?
Did they thus affront their Lord?

Soft, my child: I did not chide thee,
Though my song might sound too hard;
Tis thy mother sits beside thee,
And her arms shall be thy guard.

Yet to read the shameful story
How the Jews abused their King,
How they served the Lord of Glory,
Makes me angry while I sing.

See the kinder shepherds round Him,
Telling wonders from the sky!
Where they sought Him, there they found Him,
With His Virgin mother by.

She the lovely babe a-dressing;
Lovely infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.

Lo, He slumbers in His manger,
Where the horned oxen fed:
Peace, my darling; here's no danger,
Here's no ox near thy bed.

Twas to save thee, child, from dying,
Save my dear from burning flame,
Bitter groans and endless crying,
That thy blest Redeemer came.

May'st thou live to know and fear Him,
Trust and love Him all thy day:
Then go dwell for ever near Him,
See His face, and sing His praise!

in this car—grab the wheel quick, for I will be gone!"

I imagine that many cars will be wrecked when Christian drivers are taken from the wheels, many planes will crash when Christian pilots are taken from the cockpit, and many speeding trains will wreak havoc when Christian engineers are taken from the throttle. I believe there will be confusion on the land, the sea, and in the air. But this is too serious a matter for me to base this message on imagination or speculation or guesswork. Let's turn to the Bible and read clear accounts of the most important thing that will take place.

I Corinthians 15:51-53

"Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Notice that every Christian is not going to die. Some will be alive when Jesus comes again. Those who are alive will be "changed." That is, this mortal body that is subject to sin and disease and decay and death will suddenly be changed into an immortal body. As a matter of fact, we are going to have bodies like the one Jesus now has. The Bible plainly says so. Notice Philippians 3:20 and 21a:

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body . . ."

First John 3:2 tells us the same wonderful truth. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

And what about those who have died? Well, when a Christian dies, he goes immediately to be with Christ. His body is buried. As the years pass his body may go back to the dust of the ground. But when Jesus comes again that soul is going to be reunited with his body. But the body will be a resurrected and glorified one.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

This wonderful passage describes the same event but in more detail.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

(One day in the Belgian Congo a missionary doctor and I walked up to a native village. Just as we approached the mud huts we were startled by several men and women suddenly dashing out of one of the buildings with loud shrieks, screams, wails, and sobbing. As they ran aimlessly back and forth and around and around, beating their breasts, scratching themselves, falling prone upon the ground to beat and kick the earth—I wondered what in the world was going on. Their hollering and screaming and apparent agonies scared me. I turned to my companion and said, "Dr. Becker, what is in the world is the matter with these folks?" Very solemnly the missionary doctor replied, "A woman has just died and they are sorrowing as those who have no hope." The most tragic thing in all the world is the death of one who dies without Christ. He has no hope of Heaven and his loved ones have no hope of ever seeing him again.)

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

For the Christian—

Reunited with loved ones. The dead in Christ are going to be

raised and then they will be caught up together with us. We will be reunited with those we have loved who have died in Christ.

When I was in my teens I stood one cold, rainy day and saw the body of my mother buried in an old graveyard near Decatur, Texas. A year later I saw the grave reopened and the body of my father placed to rest by the side of my mother. I have been lonesome for them ever since. A number of times I have gone back to that old graveyard to stand at their graves. But I find no comfort in it. They seem no closer to me there than they do when I am thousands of miles away. I know my mother and father are with Christ and their bodies have doubtless long since gone back to the dust of the earth.

The saddest day of my whole life was the day Joe died. My other brothers and sisters are a great deal older than I, but Joe was only five years older. As boys we hunted and fished and worked together. As men we prayed and planned and preached together. I have no words to tell you how much I love him.

How sad it is to part with loved ones. Again and again I am called upon to try to bring comfort to children who have lost their parents, to fathers and mothers who have lost their sons and daughters, to young wives who have lost their husbands. How good it is to know that one day Jesus will come again and all Christians will be reunited, never to know death or separation again.

Brand-new bodies! We now live in mortal bodies. These bodies grow old and they wear out and become sick and infirm.

God has given me a strong, healthy body. I have always been able to work long, hard hours. I hardly ever even have a headache. I almost never have a cold. But even so, I can dead sure tell that "the old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be!" A couple of months ago I developed an infection in my body that could have been extremely serious. I went to two different specialists and both of them told me the same thing—overwork. In my heart I know they were right—but I still resent it to beat sixty! I have long since passed the time when I can get any fun out of loafing. I have a missionary work among the deaf to further establish, a camp to build, revivals to hold, books to write, and sermons to preach. There are so many wonderful, wonderful things to do. I feel like the little boy who was peeling off after getting sunburned. "Good night," he muttered, "only five years old and coming apart already!"

My heart has often been stirred because my beautiful oldest daughter, Betty, is deaf. She has never heard the nicker of the horses on the ranch, has never heard the lowing of the cattle, has never heard a mocking bird sing on a honeysuckle vine. She has never heard Ellis Zehr sing, has never heard her Uncle John preach, has never heard her mother play the organ. One day she came to her mother in tears and said, "Mother, when Jesus comes the angel will shout and the horn will blow, but—O Mother, I am deaf and I won't hear him!" But her tears of grief were turned to tears of joy as her mother explained that when Jesus comes she will no longer be deaf.

That's right. The deaf will hear, the blind will see, the lame will walk. Sickness will be a thing of the past, for we will have immortal bodies like the body of Christ.

Ever with the Lord. What wonderful words for a lonely evangelist! I like people. By nature I am friendly and affectionate. I am just not the type to live alone.

And yet it seems I have been lonely so much of my life. As a boy I was painfully shy and bashful, skinny and ugly—the fellow who was never invited to parties, the fellow who was the target of wisecracking teachers. Mother and Dad died when I was in my teens. The old home place was sold. I was stunned and scared. I didn't know where I ought to go or what I ought to do. It was in the big depression and a teen-age boy could not always find work. There were times when I wore patched-

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The Christ of Christmas Is Coming Again

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up clothes that were far too small for me, I sometimes went hungry, sometimes slept under bridges, in haystacks, and in barn lofts. I was desperately homesick but no longer had a home.

Some way I found myself, stayed with my two sisters, finished high school, a year in college, and then entered the ministry. I met Cathy and we were married. She fulfilled every dream I had of a wife and sweetheart. At last I had found someone I could love, admire, and cherish with all my heart. And she loved me. Surely, I thought, I would never be lonely again.

But after schooling God called me into revival work. During the past nineteen years I have been away from my home most of the time, conducting revival meetings from coast to coast and across the waters. I have never done much for Christ, but I have been willing to leave my lovely wife and my wonderful youngsters—I have been willing to be lonely for Jesus.

So I spend my time away from my own loved ones in order that I may help others win their loved ones to Christ. I am alone even when I walk down a crowded street. Others can be with their loved ones at Christmas and Easter and New Year's and when there are birthdays and anniversaries. Often I cannot. I actually know what it is to take a handful of wieners early in the morning and go down a back alley looking for some old stray cat or stray dog I can feed. My heart goes out to stray animals because I, too, know what it is to be away from home and lonely.

And I am sure that many who read this live lonely lives. There is no one in whom you can confide. There is no one to whom you can unburden your heart. There is no one who understands the kind of person you are, who sympathizes with your needs and burdens and desires.

Lonely days will be gone and gone forever when Jesus comes.

Unsaved Left With Unsaved
What will happen to the unsaved when Jesus comes? They will be left behind with unsaved friends. Today many a man ridicules the Gospel and scoffs at the church. He declares that all the preachers are preaching for money, that all the deacons are hypocrites, that Sunday School teachers are just busybodies, and the people who give their time and money to Christ are fools. They become angry if anyone urges them to attend church or presses upon them their need of salvation. To them the coming of Christ is just a joke. But it will be no joke when unsaved men are left behind with others who are unsaved.

"Isn't This a Wicked Place?"
I heard Dr. Louis Talbot tell of the time he, as a young preacher, walked with an old deacon through a small mining town. It was past midnight and sin was on every hand. Drunken men lay in the gutters. Harlot women accosted them with wicked invitations. In saloon and dance hall men and women drank, yelled profanity, fought, and laughed at vulgar stories.

"What a wicked town this is," the old deacon said, "when all the decent people have gone home to bed. The whole world will be just like this when Jesus takes the Christians out at the rapture."

"And isn't it a shame," the young minister replied, "that your granddaughter, who plays the organ in the church, is one of them!"

The old deacon was instantly furious. "What do you mean, 'She's one of them'?" he roared. "She's a fine, pure, virtuous girl!"

"But in her heart she has rejected Jesus Christ. She is just as unsaved as any drunken man or any fallen woman in this town and for the very same reason—they have rejected Christ and she has rejected Jesus Christ. She is one of them!"

The old man walked off in a rage, but the next Sunday morn-

ing he walked with her when his granddaughter came down the aisle to publicly confess Christ as her Saviour.

Good neighbor, if you ever expect to be saved, be saved today. After Jesus comes your pastor, your mother, your father, and your Christian friends will no longer be here to give you a tract, to sing, or to preach or pray for you.

What If Jesus Tarries?

Some may say that there is nothing to get excited about because Jesus may not come for a hundred years. Well, I believe that He will. I believe His coming is near at hand. But if He did not come for another hundred years—so what? You will dead sure meet God before a hundred years is up because you will die before then.

You ought to face a simple truth—whether you live until Jesus comes or whether you die before He comes—you are going to be facing eternity before you know it! If you ever expect to be saved, you ought to be saved right now. And if you go to Hell it will be because you are not willing to turn from your sins and be saved right now.

Good neighbor, the Christ of Christmas really is coming again, and He may come at any moment. As earnestly as I know how to say it, I urge you to turn to Him and trust Him to save you and

Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 2)

years, we would be glad to borrow and to pay four per cent interest per annum, payable semiannually.

The Lord has helped us to pay interest promptly on time, and to pay loans when they were due. Our three business properties in downtown Wheaton are paid for and clear of debt as this is written. We give a regular note, signed by the president and treasurer of Sword of the Lord Foundation, embossed with the corporation seal. We believe this is a safe investment, and those who let us use their money in this soul-winning, revival business will greatly help the Lord's cause, besides having regular interest on the money.

Will you write us if you are interested in lending money to help us get out the Gospel? Address, Sword of the Lord, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

Grand Southern Baptist Fellowship

The Southern Baptist Fellowship meeting November 28, 29 and 30

forgive you of your sins if you have not already done so.

If you have been saved by His grace, I urge you to love and live for the Saviour as you ought.

"*And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*"—I John 2:28.

Prepared for Eternity

(Continued from page 8)

arms and cried, "Here He is!" She died, looking out for Heaven. My old granddaddy used to call

at Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, was far and away the largest annual meeting this young organization has had. Pastors and Christian workers attended from fifteen or twenty states. The large Highland Park Baptist Church was crowded for the evening services, comfortably filled for daytime services.

Rev. E. C. Sheehan, pastor of Mikado Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia, was elected Moderator for the next year. Rev. Elmo Renegar, pastor Urban Street Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was elected Vice Moderator. Dr. Bob Gray, Trinity Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, and Rev. John Waters of Laurens, South Carolina, were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary. Next year's meeting will be again on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following Thanksgiving, at Highland Park Baptist Church.

It has been a great joy to serve as Moderator for the past two sessions. I fly tomorrow, Thursday, to Niles, Ohio, for a soul-winning conference with fundamental churches in the area, then to Holmes, New York, for seven days of revival services.

me to his room, when I would go to visit him after he was past his ninety-first year, and he would say, "Tom, I am longing for Heaven. Pray that God will take me Home today." And one night God took him and he is in Heaven today.

Oh, my friend, be prepared, fortified, ready to meet God.

My Decision

You have read Dr. Malone's sermon. Now if you will trust Christ to save you, sign the decision blank below, copy in a letter and mail it to the editor today. We will tell Dr. Malone you have trusted Christ as your own Saviour.

Dr. John R. Rice,
Box 420
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Dr. Malone's sermon, "Prepared for Eternity" and I realize my need of a Saviour. I do not want to wait until it is eternally too late. The best I know how, right now, I ask Jesus to come into my heart, cleanse me of sin, and make me a new creature in Christ Jesus. Please write me and advise me how to serve God.

Signed _____

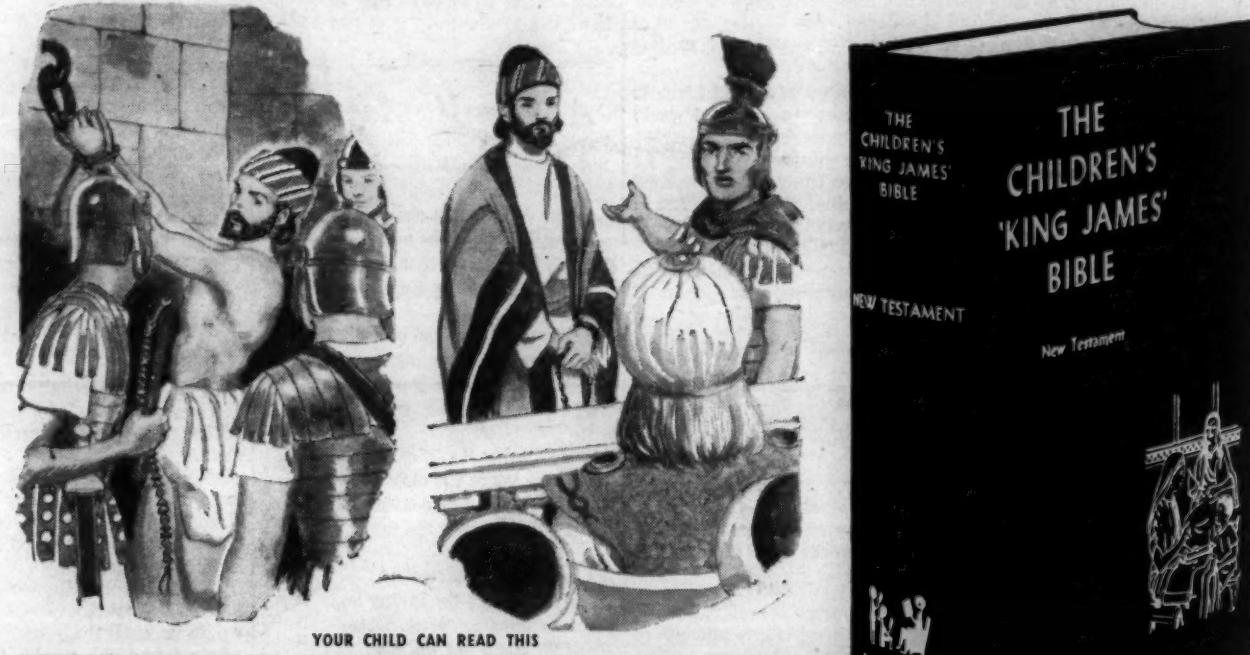
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"This book is destined to become a best seller among Christians"—CHRISTIAN LIFE



I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If after the manner of men I have fought with wild beasts in Ephesus [Ef'-ē-sūs], what is the gain to me if the dead are not raised? "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die" (See ISAIAH 22:13). ³³Do not be led astray

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—Dr. John R. Rice, Editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

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